

The SPORTS PINK

55p

Supporting **LOCAL** sport **Daily Echo**

Pompey win rate is still only one in six games – page 3

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Invincibles reunited



**HAMPSHIRE CRICKET
SPOTLIGHT - pages 32-43**

STEVIE WONDER

**England
captain
rates
Rickie an
inspiration**

ENGLAND captain Steven Gerrard believes the story of Rickie Lambert should be an inspiration to all young players trying to make their way in the game.

Lambert continued his fairytale international career with a goal and two assists in Friday's 4-0 World Cup qualification win over Moldova, at Wembley.

The game marked the Saints striker's

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SPORTS REPORTER



first start for his country, and followed his dream debut against Scotland, when he scored the decisive effort in a 3-2 victory with his first touch.

Continued on pages 2 & 3

GLORY BOY:
Rickie Lambert celebrates his Wembley goal in front of England skipper Gerrard.

PREMIER LEAGUE



**Latest from the
world's top league**
– pages 14-17

TERRY PAINE



**Saints legend's
EXCLUSIVE column**
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NON-LEAGUE



**Six pages of the latest
news** – pages 8-13

FOOTBALL



**Osvaldo switch a sign
of the times in Italy** –
pages 24-25

BALE HOPES THE TOTTENHAM FANS UNDERSTAND – PAGES 2-3

Under-21s on rise?

TOM INCE believes the new-look England Under-21s can make amends for the unacceptable performances seen at this summer's European Championship.

Having headed to Israel on a run of nine successive wins without conceding, the Young Lions returned home in shame after failing to take a point.

The woeful performance brought Stuart Pearce's six-year reign to an end and left players like Ince embarrassed.

The Blackpool winger is one of several players still eligible for the team and believes under new boss Gareth Southgate they can kick on.

"You can ask any player that was involved in that squad and they will be the first to put their hands up and say that was not good enough from an England side at any level," the 21-year-old said.

"We know more than anyone it wasn't acceptable, but we have to move on, we can't worry about the past.

"We have to look at the new regime, look at the games coming up with the Under-21s and make sure that when the time comes around for the 2015 championships in the Czech Republic we do a lot better than we did in the summer."

England got their qualifying campaign under way on Thursday, with a 1-0 win over Moldova that was far more dominant than the scoreline suggests.

Ince missed the match due to a groin tear that also saw him England's 6-0 friendly win against Scotland, but he hopes to be back soon.

"I watched them the other night against Moldova," he said, speaking at the Danone Nations Cup at Wembley.

"The scoreline should have been more. We know that, but it is just starting off.

"There is a whole new bunch of players in there and if I am called up next time I will be more than excited to represent my country again and make sure we have a better time than we did in the summer."

Ince's immediate focus, though, is continuing Blackpool's fine start to the campaign.

The Tangerines, managed by his father Paul, sit top of the SkyBet Championship thanks to the winger's match-winning goal on his return to action against Watford last weekend.

Even better news for Blackpool is that highly-rated Ince is happy where he is, despite reported interest from Tottenham and other Premier League clubs.

"Sometimes it is hard for young English players at the top end of the Premier League," the former Liverpool player said.

"You look at Tom Carroll, Andros Townsend, Danny Rose - there are players who have to take that step backwards to take a step forwards.

"I am happy playing my football with Blackpool."

International football spotlight...

RICKIE PROVES A WEMBLEY HERO

From page 1

The path Lambert has trod to reach this level is now well known.

Discarded by Liverpool as a youngster, he ended up working in a factory, putting jars on beetroot bottles, when he was released by Blackpool in 2000.

But, after a number of years journeying around the lower leagues, his career changed completely when he signed for Saints, in 2009.

It was the beginning of an astonishingly rapid progression to the very top of the game.

At 31, Lambert has only played two full seasons above the third tier.

In the last campaign, he was the joint top English scorer in the Premier League.

The Roy of the Rovers comparison is a cliché, but in this instance it

does seem apt.

Gerrard said: "He's worked really hard and he's a great example to young kids out there who are trying to make their way in the game. You have to start off lower down and he's come to the top.

"He's scored two in two, a couple of assists, so he's took to it really well."

Initially, Lambert's arrival in the England squad had an air of being something of a token gesture from manager Roy Hodgson.

The way the England boss spoke did little to inspire confidence that he saw Lambert as a serious option who was worthy of consideration for the World Cup next year, assuming the team qualifies.

Yet the Saints forward has grasped his opportunity and has begun to emerge as the toast of the nation. Hodgson can hardly ignore

him now, even if he still seems to hold back a little when it comes to discussing him.

Lambert's performances at this level will come as little surprise to those who watch him week in and week out, though.

A prolific front man, he provides a magnificent focal point in attack, while combining that with the ability to link play and demonstrate an impressive range of passing - something he did with his two exquisite assists for Danny Welbeck's goals on Friday.

With Welbeck suspended for Tuesday's crucial trip to Ukraine, Wayne Rooney injured, and Daniel Sturridge a major doubt, it is likely that Lambert will again have the chance to continue leading the line.

Should he impress in Kiev, in such a vital game in an intimidating for-

eign arena, he may make himself indispensable.

Hodgson said: "Lambert was a selection people saw, to some extent, as one that came about because two other candidates were missing, but he took his chance," said Hodgson.

"That's all you can do when you put the national team shirt on. I'm sure he'll be expecting to play on Tuesday. I'll have to make a decision to go along with his expectation or surprise him."

Gerrard added: "We've set it up nice now and we need to go and put in a heroic performance on Tuesday.

"It's a tough game. They're a fantastic team, but we've got nothing to fear. Hopefully the injuries will galvanise us and we can get the job done. It's a great opportunity for us to get the box seat in this group."



WEMBLEY HERO: Rickie Lambert takes the congratulations of Danny Welbeck.

International football spotlight...



WEMBLEY HERO: Rickie Lambert scores England's second goal in the 4-0 win over Moldova this week.

Bale hopes fans understand

GARETH Bale has revealed that even if Tottenham had qualified for this season's Champions League he would not have turned down a world-record transfer to Real Madrid.

Bale left north London in an £85.3million deal and said he had to take up a "once in a lifetime" move.

Asked if he would have stayed in the Premier League if Tottenham had been playing in the Champions League, Bale told BT Sport: "It's once in a lifetime and I don't think you can turn down a team like that."

"For me I want to be playing (in the) Champions League but also winning trophies."

"At a club like that they're out to win every trophy they're involved in. That's exactly what I want to do."

"When Real Madrid comes in it's a once in a lifetime

opportunity. I think if I didn't take it I would probably regret it for the rest of my life."

Bale said he hoped the Tottenham fans would continue to hold him in high regard. "The fans have been absolutely unbelievable with me," he said. "They've supported me through the bad times and believed in me."

"The nights they were cheering my name, I will never forget the great European nights at White Hart Lane."

Bale said he would always regard Tottenham as a special club.

"They were amazing and Tottenham will always have a place in my heart," he continued.

"I hope they understand Real Madrid is an absolute massive, massive club and they will understand and respect my decision."



MORE STRESS: Two fans try to hug Gareth Bale, second right, during a pause in Wales's World Cup 2014 Group A qualifying soccer match against Macedonia.

Pompey pegged back

PORTSMOUTH have won just one of their first six games after Cheltenham's Jermaine McGlashan twice pegged them back at Whaddon Road.

Patrick Agyemang gave Pompey a fifth minute lead, McGlashan levelled in the 36th, only for Johnny Ertl to restore the visitors' lead a minute before half-time. However, McGlashan scored in injury time to deprive the pre-season title favourites of victory. Chesterfield continue to set the pace at the top of League Two, with victory over Accrington seeing them maintain their two-point advantage at the top.

Tendayi Darikwa's 47th-minute goal proved decisive as the Derbyshire side took their haul to five wins and a draw from their first six games.

Oxford maintained their momentum with a 2-0 win at Burton, moving above their hosts into second place.

Burton were reduced to 10 men in the 36th minute when Ian Sharps was dismissed and the visitors capitalised in the second half with goals from Alfie Potter (49) and Danny Rose (85).

A goal in each half from Michael Smith gave AFC Wimbledon a 2-0 win at struggling York which lifts them to third.

Fourth-placed Fleetwood brushed aside Torquay, with goals from Antoni Sarcevic (10 and 37), Jamille Matt (62) and Matty Blair (90) giving them a 4-1 home win. Elliott Benyon (89) replied.

Hartlepool scored their first goal of the league campaign, through James Poole - but it came in the last minute and Max Kretschmar (51 and 69) had already netted twice for visitors Wycombe.

Morecambe came from behind to surprise Southend 3-1 at Roots Hall and climb into the top seven.

The Essex side took the lead through Kevan Hurst's goal on the half hour but Andrew Fleming (35 and 47) and Jack Sampson (56) turned things around, before the visitors had Robbie Threlfall dismissed.

Plymouth moved into the top half as Reuben Reid's 82nd-minute goal saw off Bristol Rovers - and 1-0 was also the scoreline at Spotland, where Scott Hogan's 36th-minute breakthrough earned a win for Rochdale - who had Peter Vincenti sent off soon after the goal - against Bury.

Josh Scott gave Dagenham & Redbridge a 20th-minute lead against Exeter but the fifth-placed Grecians earned a point through Sam Parkin's goal 10 minutes from time.

League newcomers Newport and Mansfield shared two goals and two sendings off at Rodney Parade.

Chris Zebroski headed the hosts into the lead after half an hour but Sam Clucas levelled for Mansfield midway through the second half. Newport had Lee Minshall sent off 14 minutes from time, with the Stags' Matt Rhead following soon after.

The other game also finished 1-1, with Niall Canavan giving Scunthorpe the lead midway through the second half at Northampton, only for the winless Cobblers to earn a point through Clive Platt's 78th minute breakthrough.

TODAY'S FOOTBALL RESULTS- SEE PAGE48

CLUBS in the Football League spent £21,502,362 on agents fees between July 1 2012 and June 30 2013.

AFC Bournemouth spent an eye-catching £688,666 of that figure – the highest in the third tier last season and ninth in the entire Football League.

That money was spent on a total of 67 transactions, which comprised 30 new registrations/transfers, 11 updated contracts, 12 cancelled contracts and 14 loan deals.

Among the new recruits were Matt Ritchie and Ryan Fraser – purchased for a combined sum believed to be in the region of £800,000. Boss Eddie Howe also secured the cut-price signing of promotion hero Brett Pitman during the period, as well as goalkeeper Ryan Allsop on a free transfer.

During 2012-13, Cherries negotiated contract cancellations with the likes of Lorenzo Davids and David James, both signed by previous manager Paul Groves, as Howe looked to shape his team and trim the wage bill.

Key players including Harry Arter, Steve Cook, Shaun MacDonald and Marc Pugh were handed new long-term contracts.

Championship

Blackburn	£3,538,034
Cardiff	£1,836,193
Wolves	£1,676,300
Crystal Palace	£1,345,913
Leeds	£1,283,234
Nottingham Forest	£1,208,850
Hull	£929,535
Brighton	£869,988
Bolton	£611,900
Ipswich	£551,878
Watford	£546,250
Derby	£533,081
Burnley	£531,487
Sheffield Wednesday	£487,800
Bristol City	£467,115
Huddersfield	£459,670
Leicester	£407,300
Middlesbrough	£365,947
Millwall	£233,400
Charlton	£227,170
Birmingham	£203,100
Barnsley	£169,360
Peterborough	£83,800
Blackpool	£0

Total£18,567,305

League One

Bournemouth	£688,666
Coventry	£252,256
Preston	£199,605
Brentford	£177,806
Crawley	£133,520
Swindon	£128,326
MK Dons	£100,545
Notts County	£95,965
Sheffield United	£84,647
Doncaster	£76,900
Colchester	£50,135
Stevenage	£40,660
Leyton Orient	£37,155
Yeovil	£36,265
Shrewsbury	£33,351
Scunthorpe	£31,126
Bury	£23,924
Oldham	£20,169
Portsmouth	£20,000
Carlisle	£16,700
Tranmere	£10,000
Walsall	£3,300
Crewe	£0
Hartlepool	£0

Total£2,261,020

League Two

Rotherham	£106,383
Chesterfield	£92,418
Fleetwood	£91,445
Bradford	£62,026
Port Vale	£59,250
Bristol Rovers	£58,886
Southend	£35,003
Northampton	£29,270
Wycombe	£25,396
Exeter	£22,720
Plymouth	£16,500
Oxford	£13,520
Cheltenham	£12,140
York	£11,500
Aldershot	£8,060
Gillingham	£7,500
Dagenham	£6,750
Rochdale	£6,240
Torquay	£5,000
Burton	£4,030
Accrington	£0
AFC Wimbledon	£0
Barnet	£0
Morecambe	£0

Total£674,037

AND so the transfer window closes.

Please accept a gold plated, framed, "Thank God for that" from me accordingly.

Unlike so many of my friends, I really don't quite get the transfer window.

It used to be a period of genuine excitement, players coming in at the last moment and the Sky Sports News centre was buzzing with the ins and outs.

The fact that Saints were a League One/Championship side meant there was genuine anticipation of who we might sign.

Was it a loan from a Premiership side or a signing from abroad?

It was genuinely exciting...

Nowadays the transfer window is something of a farce.

Quite how Chelsea can try and loan a player out for £3 million is beyond me.

It makes the whole loan system something of sport-ing joke.

To the best of my knowledge, the whole loan system was created to help clubs out of a whole when dealing with emergency cover and helping fringe players get first team experience.

It was not meant to allow big clubs the opportunity to make a few bob on a player they now regret signing.

Wednesday's *Daily Mail* contained an odd article.

Over the last few weeks, I've waxed lyrical about Saints' youth Academy and how the first team had a strong English backbone to it.

It came as a massive surprise to see *The Mail's* Adam Crafton criticising Saints as one of nine Premiership teams who didn't buy English during this transfer window.

No doubt Adam hasn't spent much time at St Mary's, otherwise he'd have noticed that half of the first team is British.

A quarter, recently, has been home-grown.

Quite how the Mail can concentrate on three signings that aren't English is beyond me.

It's probably not coincidence that this article coincides with Greg Dyke's words about the amount of English players currently playing in the Premier League.

The pool of English players in the Premier League has gone down from 48% in 1998-99 to 32% this season.

But it's hardly headline news, is it?

It's no real surprise. For years now, the amount of foreign players has been an issue, but who's to blame?

Easy. We are.

As a country, we have priced ourselves out of contention.

You only have to look at Gareth Barry and James Milner, with combined transfer fees of £12m and £26m respectively, to see just where we, as a nation, have gone wrong.

Crazy transfer fees for players that most people would view as being extremely average.

We're to blame for all our problems

STIFLING CREATIVITY: Matt Le Tissier won many fewer England caps than James Milner has.



● One of my favourite players over the last few years, Rickie Lambert aside, has been Adam Lallana.

● Lallana is, if you peruse any Saints-orientated message board, one of the more criticised Saints players.

● Yet he is one player who, with a drop of the shoulder or a flick of the boot, can transform a game.

● I'd gladly pay to watch him alone; a Le Tissier for a new generation if you like.

● This season is vital for Adam Lallana. Injury interrupted his season last year and until we see a full season from him we can't fully judge if he's

the real deal or not.

● For me, he lit up League One and the Championship and looked sharp as a tack at the start of his first season in the Premiership.

● He wasn't quite the same player when he returned to fitness.

● The problem we seem to have is an obsession over Gaston Ramirez that seems to relegate Adam to the bench. Controversial it may seem, but I'd take Adam Lallana over Gaston Ramirez all day long.

● Let's hope Adam can fulfil his potential. If he can, then what a player he can be...

How can anyone possibly justify that sort of a career transfer fee for such uninspiring players?

How can anyone not justify playing a fraction of that money for a Norwegian or Swedish equivalent? James Milner for £26m or Anders Svensson for £500,000?

It's a no brainer, isn't it?

You want football to flourish in this country? Encourage skill.

Do I have to mention Matthew Le Tissier?

The Guernsey man earned eight caps over three years which, by anyone's standards, is abysmal for a man of his talent.

We do not encourage creativity, we stifle it.

We live in a country where the likes of Le Tissier earn a paltry eight caps and yet an average player like Milner can earn 39.

If the likes of Greg Dyke want to pontificate about the state of English football,

then perhaps he should look at the money spent on the game and the risk involved in playing footballers like Le Tissier in the modern game.

There's too much at stake. Managers and chairmen simply don't have the balls to play mavericks like him and Paul Gascoigne for fear of appearing reckless.

You want to change the path of football in this country?

You have to change from

it the grass roots upwards, change the way we look at sport and leisure in general.

It's been said many times that football is missing in modern society.

Yes, you can find it on a weekend or of an evening in a pub, but when was the last time you saw kids playing football in the street?

When did you last see kids having fun playing football?

You may well see many games on a Sunday, but how often do you see kids being creative on a pitch?

Creativity is viewed almost as showing off.

Ask yourself, when was the last time you saw an England national side play with any flair?

Perhaps, just perhaps, the problem with the lack of English signings lies with the lack of English managers?

Or perhaps English footballers just don't offer the flair and ability that the foreign imports do.

Paine's World

The Saints legend's **EXCLUSIVE** column on all things football



FINAL DAY FARCE

Ineptitude rife among top clubs

WITH more money than ever before to throw around, this year's transfer window was always going to be one where clubs went to excess.

The new television deal has empowered clubs like never before, and on Monday night they felt the need to flex those new financial muscles.

As executives boarded private aircrafts and managers gave their customary car-window interviews, it was difficult to think that this is what football has become.

All sense of logic seemed to be put aside as clubs looked to please the masses of fans, those baying for blood, or at least a marquee signing – except for Newcastle, of course.

It's easy to forget that the transfer window had been open for 64 days, plenty time for contract waggles and repeated bids with the aim of meeting a buy-out clause.

What was clear to see in the last-minute dash for the line, was the ineptitude of some of those in charge of running our football clubs.

Of course, in a world of excess, common sense falls by the wayside. Clubs buy because they can.

They buy to make a statement. They hold off record transfers so that their main rivals won't manage to get themselves a star player.

And when it all fails, the game itself is made to look petty.

Like it or not, these clubs are businesses nowadays, used as a tool for profit, and to see them being enticed into spending ridiculous sums of money as the clock wound down was only more baffling.

Some clubs, like Manchester City, Chelsea and Liverpool, were all but done come deadline day, with perhaps a few loose ends to tie up.



NO LOGIC ON THE DEAL:
Marouane Fellaini.

This allowed them the luxury of sitting back and watching as their rivals scrapped over what was left.

Perhaps the most damning evidence that money and logic are two foreign concepts was Manchester United's pursuit of Marouane Fellaini.

While it was always going to be a tough first window for David Moyes and Ed Woodward, they certainly didn't paint a very confident picture for the on-looking Manchester United supporters.

There was a sense of inevitability about the signing of the lanky Belgian.

Another example of a manager sticking to what he knows.

And why shouldn't he?

Fellaini will certainly improve United in the middle of the park, offering power and goals.

The way the deal was completed, though, had Moyes and Woodward looking like Tweedledee and Tweedledum.

Having let Fellaini's £23.5m release clause run down, they decided to offer £28m for Baines and Fellaini, only to come up with £27.5m for just the Belgian on deadline day.

Look as hard as you like, but you're very unlikely to find any logic in that deal.

There were winners on D-Day, though.

In the last minute melee, it was Fellaini's previous employers that came out looking pretty, filling the gap left with Gareth Barry and James McCarthy.

More suited to Martinez's approach, they may just be an improvement on the distracted Belgian.

It was the signing of his countryman, though, that may prove a stroke of genius, as Romelu Lukaku surrendered his spot on the Chelsea bench for the lure of first-team football.

In yet another instance of a club cutting off their nose to spite their face, Chelsea signed off on the deal, despite not wanting to let him go.

The preferred option was to part ways with Demba Ba, but a loan move to Arsenal was never going to happen.

So much for not seeing a problem with letting a player leave for your rivals. Chelsea's loss is the Toffees gain.

Global stars lacking

A TOTAL of £628m was spent by English football clubs during this window, but how many superstars did that buy?

The quality of the league is no doubt improved, which is the main aim at the end of the day, but the fees and wages spent on players is becoming farcical.

That Gareth Bale's agent probably got a higher fee than Barcelona paid to sign Diego Maradona is a clear indication of a world gone crazy.

There was money well spent, though.

It had been a long time coming, but Arsenal's decision to splash some cash and sign Mesut Özil still caught the world by surprise.

That Real Madrid were willing to part with their main playmaker after the signing of Bale was a strange move, like get-



MESUT OZIL

ting a new body kit for your car but replacing your engine.

It is Arsenal and the Premier League that will profit, though, with perhaps the world's finest number 10 plying his trade in what is supposed to be the world's finest league.

These are the signings that raise the profile of the game in England, and having Jack Wilshere alongside Özil can only help the game.

For all the money being spent, these are the sorts of players that should be coming to the league.

Of course, somewhere the Tottenham chairman, Daniel Levy, is sitting and thinking, "I should've held off on the Bale deal for just a couple more hours."

Saints Spotlight

SAINTS' FIRST TEAM FIXTURES AND RESULTS 2012/13



AUGUST
Sat 17 West Brom(A)
Sat 24 **Sunderland**(H)
Tue 27 Barnsley (CCC 2)(A)
Sat 31 Norwich(A)

W 1-0
D 1-1
W 5-1
L 0-1

Boruc
Boruc
K Davis
Boruc

Chambers
Chambers
Clyne
Chambers

Fonte
Fonte 1
Fonte
Fonte

Lovren
Lovren
Yoshida
Lovren

Shaw
Shaw
Fox
Fox

Wanyama
Wanyama
Cork
Wanyama

Schneiderlin
Schneiderlin
S Davis 2
Schneiderlin

W-Prowse***
W-Prowse
Isgrove
W-Prowse

Lallana*
Lallana***
Ramirez 1
Osvaldo***

Rodriguez**
Rodriguez
Rodriguez 1**
Lallana*

Lambert 1
Lambert
Mayuka* 1**
Lambert

Ramirez*
Clyne*
Rowe*
Ramirez*

S Davis**
Osvaldo**
Reed**
S Davis**

Cork***
Ramirez***
Sinclair***
Rodriguez***

SEPTEMBER
Sun 15 West Ham(H)
Sat 21 Liverpool(A)
Sat 28 Crystal Palace(H)

OCTOBER
Sat 5 Swansea(H)
Sat 19 Man United(A)
Sat 26 Fulham(H)

NOVEMBER
Sat 2 Stoke(A)
Sat 9 Hull(H)
Sat 23 Arsenal(A)

DECEMBER
Sun 1 Chelsea(A)
Wed 4 Aston Villa(H)
Sat 7 Manchester City(H)
Sat 14 Newcastle(A)
Sat 21 Tottenham(H)
Thu 26 Cardiff(A)
Sat 28 Everton(A)

JANUARY
Wed 1 Chelsea(H)
Sat 11 West Brom(H)
Sat 18 Sunderland(A)
Tue 28 Arsenal(H)

FEBRUARY
Sat 1 Fulham(A)
Sat 8 Stoke(H)
Tue 11 Hull(A)
Sat 22 West Ham(A)

MARCH
Sat 1 Liverpool(H)
Sat 8 Crystal Palace(A)
Sat 15 Norwich(H)
Sat 22 Tottenham(A)
Sat 29 Newcastle(H)

APRIL
Sat 5 Manchester City(A)
Sat 12 Cardiff(H)
Sat 19 Aston Villa(A)
Sat 26 Everton(H)

MAY
Sat 3 Swansea(A)
Sun 11 Man United(H)



NATIONAL HERO: Rickie Lambert on target at Wembley.

AN ex-Saint has ruined my plans for next summer, but a current one may just have sorted out yours.

In Dublin, 37-year-old Anders Svensson popped up to beat David Forde at the near post and condemn Ireland to a 2-1 defeat which pretty much kills off any hopes of the boys in green getting on a plane to Brazil next summer, *writes DAN KERINS.*

To make it worse, I even have a signed shirt of his from 2003. Still, I can always use an extra rag. Not that I'm bitter or anything.

About 300 miles away at Wembley however, Rickie Lambert Esq. was busy scoring and creating goals against a rather limited Moldova.

This may have led to a number bemoaning the fact that it's only Moldova and that Lambert is still not good enough for international duty, but the fact remains he is scoring goals in an England shirt.

Without his contribution in three of the four goals England scored, the result would have been rather more underwhelming – and in international football, you don't get to play the big boys without dispatching the minnows first.

Lambert's call up by Roy Hodgson has had a remarkable effect across

Following Rickie all the way to Rio!

the country. Since I was a small boy, all the English football fans I know have always put their club ahead of their country.

Personally, I put this down to firstly the clever marketing of the Premier League over the last 21 years, the bloating of the European Cup into the Champions League and finally the constant overhyping of the Three Lions (Golden Generation, anyone?).

In England, England is no longer the pinnacle of the game. Yet, Rickie Lambert seems to have reminded people that it should be.

His progress from the fourth tier to International football seems to have galvanised belief that it is possible to survive the influx of foreign talent and make an impression on the closed shop that is England's national team.

Suddenly, Champions League experi-

ence is not a pre-requisite to play international football – lest we forget, Gary Hooper, now at Norwich, has Champions League experience at Celtic, but I don't see a clamour for his call up.

In Southampton especially, more people suddenly seem concerned, even emotionally invested, in what England can do.

That's what international football should be about. Petty club rivalries are left at the door for the greater good.

I had the good fortune to go the Euro 2012 last year.

The football was abysmal. Giovanni Trapattoni's atrocious tactics and gameplans saw Ireland humiliated.

Regardless, it was the best experience of my life.

Poznan, a city of 600,000 people, was invaded by 50,000 Irishmen and

women – there for the craic and unlikely dreams of glory.

Ignoring the financial realities for a moment, it now looks like I won't even have the opportunity to repeat in Rio the delights of Gdansk. In reality, it just means I won't have the chance to sell a kidney to fund such a trip. Every cloud and all that.

Should England make it however and you're lucky enough to be able to afford it, I can only urge you to look at heading to Brazil next summer.

If however, you like most people don't have a spare few grand to throw away on a football jolly, throw yourself into International football.

Enjoy the dreams, wallow in the disappointment, but above all remember how Rickie Lambert made it acceptable to care about your country once again.

	LA	LG	CA	CG	CSA	CSG
KELVIN DAVIS	0	0	1	0	284(1)	0
PAULO GAZZANIGA	0	0	0	0	11	0
ARTUR BORUC	3	0	0	0	24	0
NATHANIEL CLYNE	0(1)	0	1	0	35(1)	1
DEJAN LOVREN	3	0	0	0	3	0
VICTOR WANYAMA	3	0	0	0	3	0
DANNY FOX	1	0	1	0	54(10)	1
LUKE SHAW	2(1)	0	0	0	26(6)	0
DANIEL OSVALDO	0	0	0	0	0	0
JOSE FONTE	3	1	1	0	145(3)	13
JOS HOOVELD	0	0	0	0	66(3)	8
MAYA YOSHIDA	0	0	1	0	34(1)	0

	LA	LG	CA	CG	CSA	CSG
JACK STEPHENS	0	0	0	0	0(1)	0
JACK CORK	0(1)	0	1	0	97(9)	0
MORGAN SCHNEIDERLIN	3	0	0	0	0170(28)	8
ADAM LALLANA	3	0	0	0	0203(23)	50
RICKIE LAMBERT	3	1	0	0	0189(10)	104
JAY RODRIGUEZ	2	0	1	1	29(11)	10
EMMANUEL MAYUKA	0	0	1	1	3(10)	1
GASTON RAMIREZ	0(2)	0	1	1	21(8)	6
STEVE DAVIS	0(1)	0	1	2	24(12)	4
JAMES WARD-PROWSE	3	0	0	0	013(12)	1
JASON PUNCHEON	0	0	0	0	070(10)	10
GULY DO PRADO	0	0	0	0	077(28)	22

	LA	LG	CA	CG	CSA	CSG
BILLY SHARP	0	0	0	0	12(6)	10
TADANARI LEE	0	0	0	0	7(5)	2
LLOYD ISGROVE	0	0	1	0	1(1)	0
CALUM CHAMBERS	3	0	0	0	3(1)	0
ANDY ROBINSON	0	0	0	0	0(1)	0
PABLO OSVALDO	1(1)	0	0	0	1(1)	0
OMAR ROWE	0	0	0(1)	0	0(1)	0
HARRISON REED	0	0	0(1)	0	0(1)	0
JAKE SINCLAIR	0	0	0(1)	0	0(1)	0

KEY: LA: league appearances. LG: league goals. CA: cup appearances. CG: cup goals. CSA: career Saints appearances. CSG: career Saints goals.

Non-league Action

EASTLEIGH HIT THE TOP



GOAL HERO: Eastleigh goalscorer Craig McAllister in action against Bromley.

EASTLEIGH 2 BROMLEY 1

EASTLEIGH went top of the Skril Conference South with a 2-1 home win over former leaders Bromley this afternoon.

The Spitfires totally dominated the first half with goals by Craig McAllister and the outstanding Stuart Fleetwood, but it was backs to the wall stuff after the break as Bradley Goldberg got the Kent visitors back into it.

With Chris Todd still not over hamstring trouble, the Spitfires handed a sixth start to ex-Christchurch centre-back Chris Dillon.

Following solid defending by Dan Spence in the wake of Jamie Collins' mis-kick, Eastleigh went quickly on the attack.

Stuart Fleetwood was fouled wide on the left and tested keeper Lewis Carey at his near post with a well struck free kick.

Fleetwood was looking particularly dangerous and stung Carey's hand again on five minutes following good play by Craig McAllister before shrugging off Bromley skipper Rob Swaine before a corner.

The Spitfires continued to look the sharper side and on 13 minutes Spence fired narrowly over at the far post from Michael Green's left-wing cross.

Bromley responded with an Elliott Buchanan free kick that ricocheted safely to keeper Ross Flitney.

Green then lifted in a lovely ball for Jai Reason inside the box, but the No 10 didn't get hold of it and it fell to the lively Fleetwood who forced a corner off Carey.

Eastleigh's domination was finally rewarded when they took a 20th minute lead with a goal of stunning simplicity.

Green swung in an inch-perfect free kick from the right which was met by a stooping McALLISTER header at the far post.

Fleetwood was on fire, next cropping up on the right of the area to test Carey again with a fierce-

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NON-LEAGUE REPORTER

ly struck shot before dipping a free kick narrowly over.

On 26 minutes Ben Strevens lost possession after an Eastleigh corner had broken down and this time Green competently covered as Brendan Kiernan scampered down the right.

Like Fleetwood, Green was having a superb first half and it was fitting that the pair should combine to double the Spitfires' lead on 31 minutes.

Green ventured down the left and found FLEETWOOD who made his way along the by-line before unleashing a vicious shot which thundered into the far corner.

Fleetwood almost had another within a matter of seconds, but this time Carey was squarely behind his centrally placed strike.

Just when it looked as if nothing could go wrong for Eastleigh, they lost Spence to a hamstring injury.

Romone Rose was sent on to replace him while, for Bromley, Danny Waldren went on for Kiernan.

The visitors fleetingly threatened just before half-time, but Flitney was down sharply to gather as Pierre Joseph-Dubois scampered after Bradley Goldberg's threaded pass. Half-time:

Joseph-Dubois got Bromley's first meaningful shot on target early in the second half but Flitney turned it away for a corner.

However, there was little the keeper could do to stop Bromley halving the deficit on 50 minutes when GOLDBERG collected a long ball and, from the edge of the area, drilled an angled shot across Flitney into the bottom corner.

From a position of near total dominance, Eastleigh suddenly looked unsettled by buoyant Bromley, but when Goldberg again got the ball in a dangerous position 18 yards out, the Spitfires' defence this time closed him down and he shot over.

Reason forced a corner as he looked to inject more urgency into the home side and then he played in Fleetwood, who forced yet another save out of Carey.

But it needed quick thinking by Flitney to race out of his area and snuff out the threat of Jay May.

There was another scare for the Spitfires on 66 minutes when Joseph-Dubois pinged the ball into the left channel and the dangerous Goldberg sent a shot on the run just over.

Shortly after Reason had been booked for a foul on Waldren, he made way for Yemi Odubade as Eastleigh looked to recapture their first-half spark.

There was better from Eastleigh on 79 minutes when McAllister sent a cross-field pass to Fleetwood who cut inside with busy feet, but his shot was comfortable for Carey.

But it wasn't long before Flitney had to bail his side out again with another solid challenge on the imposing figure of substitute Shamir Mullings.

And Flitney did even better on 85 minutes with a magnificent point-blank block from Joseph-Dubois who looked certain to score after an excellent Bromley move.

With the 90-minute mark approaching, Eastleigh left Goldberg unmarked from a short corner. They dealt with the initial danger but the ball fell to Joe Anderson, who shot through a mass of bodies from the edge of the box.

Once again, Flitney was there to save it.

The groan around the stadium told you all about the pressure Eastleigh were under as five minutes of added time were announced.

Eastleigh perked up with a couple of dangerous forays from substitute Odubade, but the final whistle was met with relief by the 837 crowd.

THIS WEEK'S NATIONAL AND LOCAL FOOTBALL FIXTURES

Sunday, September 8
EUROPEAN UNDER-21 CHAMPIONSHIP
Qualifying Group Eight: Israel U21 v Azerbaijan U21
SKY BET LEAGUE 1 CALOR SOUTHERN LEAGUE
Premier Division: Cambridge City v Chippenham Town

Monday, September 9
EUROPEAN UNDER-21 CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFYING
Group Three: Luxembourg v Holland, Slovakia v Georgia.

Group Four: Bosnia-Herzegovina v Austria (4.00), Spain v Albania (7.30). **Group Five:** Liechtenstein v Switzerland (6.00), Ukraine v Croatia (5.30). **Group Six:** Rep of Ireland v Germany

Group One: Finland v England (5.00)
Group Nine: Belgium v N Ireland (7.00), Cyprus U21 v Italy U21 (2.00).

Group Ten: Belarus v France (7.30)
SKY BET LEAGUE 1
Preston v Oldham (7.35).

WYVERN COMBINATION LEAGUE

Premier Division: Winchester City v New Milton.

Tuesday, September 10
FIFA WORLD CUP EUROPEAN QUALIFYING

Group A: FYR Macedonia v Scotland (7.30), Wales v Serbia (at Cardiff City Stadium)
Group B: Armenia v Denmark (at Hrazdan Stadium) (5.00), Italy v Czech Republic (at Juventus Stadium), Malta v Bulgaria (7.00).
Group C: Austria v Rep of Ireland, Faroe Islands v Germany, Kazakhstan v Sweden (at Astana Arena) (5.00).

Group D: Andorra v Holland (7.30), Hungary v Estonia (7.30), Romania v Turkey (7.00).
Group E: Cyprus v Slovenia (7.30), Iceland v Albania (8.00), Norway v Switzerland (7.00).
Group F: Luxembourg v Northern Ireland (7.15), Russia v Israel (at Petrovski Stadium) (4.00).
Group G: Greece v Latvia, Lithuania v Liechtenstein (at Suduva Stadium) (4.30), Slovakia v Bosnia-Herzegovina (at Stadion pod Dubnorn) (7.15).

Group H: San Marino v Poland, Ukraine v England.
Group I: Belarus v France (8.00), Georgia v Finland (6.00).
European Under-21 Championship Qualifying
Group Two: Russia v Bulgaria (2.00) Slovenia v Denmark (3.30).

Group Six: Montenegro v Romania (7.30).
Group Seven: Greece v Malta (4.30), Turkey v Sweden (at Recep Tayyip Erdogan Stadium) (5.00).
Group One: Moldova v Wales (5.00)
Group Eight: Norway v FYR Macedonia (4.00)
Group Ten: Iceland v Kazakhstan (5.00)

SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE
SWL Cup, round two: Bemerton HH v Amesbury or Hamworthy Utd.

HAMPSHIRE FA SENIOR CUP
First round: Bournemouth Poppies v Totton & Eling, East Cowes Vics v Petersfield Town, Eversley & California v Newport IoW, Fareham Town v Cove, Folland Sports v Alton, Hayling Utd v New Milton, Hordean v Fleet Spurs, Hythe & Dibden v Whitchurch, Moneyfields v Blackfield & Langley, Ringwood v Lymington Town, Tadley Calvea v Christchurch.

PUMA ENGINEERING HAMPSHIRE PREMIER LEAGUE
Division One: Andover Lions v Lyndhurst.
WYVERN COMBINATION LEAGUE
Premier Division: Dorchester Town v Sholing.

Wednesday, September 11
INTERNATIONAL

Brazil v Portugal (at Gillette Stadium) (1.30)

HAMPSHIRE FA SENIOR CUP

First round: Brockenhurst v Romsey Town, Fawley AFC v Cowes Sports.

PUMA ENGINEERING HAMPSHIRE PREMIER LEAGUE

Premier Division: AFC Aldermaston v Baffins Milton Rovers.
WYVERN COMBINATION LEAGUE
Wyvern Shield League Phase: (D) AFC Portchester v Moneyfields, (D) Petersfield Town v East Cowes Vics.

Thursday, September 12
HAMPSHIRE FA SENIOR CUP

First round: Andover New St v Andover Tn.
Friday, September 13
SKY BET LEAGUE 2
Southend v Scunthorpe
THE SKRILL PREMIER
Hereford v Aldershot, Woking v Tamworth, Wrexham v Luton.

Saturday, September 14
BARCLAYS PREMIER LEAGUE

Aston Villa v Newcastle, Everton v Chelsea (5.30), Fulham v West Brom, Hull v Cardiff, Man Utd v Crystal Palace (12.45), Spurs v Norwich, Stoke v Man City, Sunderland v Arsenal.

SKY BET CHAMPIONSHIP
Bolton v Leeds, Bournemouth v Blackpool, Burnley v Blackburn (12.15), Huddersfield v Doncaster, Ipswich v Middlesbrough, Leicester v Wigan, Millwall v Derby, Nottm Forest v Barnsley, QPR v Birmingham, Sheff Wed v Yeovil, Watford v Charlton.

LEAGUE 1
Bradford v Colchester, Bristol City v Peterborough, Carlisle v Sheff Utd, Crawley Town v Shrewsbury, Crewe v Walsall, Leyton Orient v Port Vale, Milton Keynes Dons v Notts County, Preston v Stevenage, Rotherham v Oldham, Tranmere v Brentford, Wolverhampton v Swindon.

LEAGUE 2
Burton Albion v Portsmouth, Cheltenham v Oxford Utd, Chesterfield v AFC Wimbledon, Dag & Red v Bristol Rovers, Fleetwood Town v Bury, Hartlepool v Accrington Stanley, Newport County v Morecambe, Northampton v Exeter, Plymouth v Wycombe, Rochdale v Torquay, York v Mansfield.

SKRILL FOOTBALL CONFERENCE
South: Basingstoke v Ebbsfleet, Bath City v Tonbridge Angels, Boreham Wood v Gosport Borough, Bromley v Staines, Chelmsford v Whitehawk, Dorchester v Bishops Cleeve, Dover v Weston-super-Mare, Eastbourne Borough v Concord Rangers, Havant & Waterlooville v Hayes & Yeading, Maidenhead v Eastleigh, Sutton v Farnborough.

FA CUP
First qualifying round: Bashley v Moneyfields, Fareham Town v Weymouth,

Hallen v Hamworthy Utd, Horndean v AFC Portchester, Poole Town v Brockenhurst, Sholing v AFC Totton, Winchester City v Mangotsfield Utd.

SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE

Premier Division: Bemerton HH v Whitchurch, Blackfield & Langley v Verwood, Fawley AFC v Romsey Town, Folland Sports v Newport IoW, Sholing v Moneyfields (TBC), Totton & Eling v Bournemouth Poppies (TBC).

Division One: Amesbury v New Milton, Cowes Sports v Team Solent, Hayling Utd v Pewsey Vale, Hythe & Dibden v Stockbridge, Laverstock & Ford v Andover NS, Petersfield Town v East Cowes Vics, Ringwood v Fleet Spurs, Tadley Calvea v US Portsmouth.

PUMA ENGINEERING HAMPSHIRE PREMIER LEAGUE

Premier Division (2.30 kick-offs): AFC Aldermaston v Paulsgrove, Overton v AFC Stoneham.

Combination Division: AFC Stoneham v Michelmersh & Timsbury, Fleetlands v Hamble Club, Hedge End Rangers v Clanfield, Liphook v Bishops Waltham, Otterbourne v Liss, Paulsgrove v Winchester Castle.

PEHPL Senior League Cup, first round:
Andover Lions v Bournemouth Sports, Bishops Waltham v Otterbourne, Broughton v QK Southampton, Bush Hill v Fleetlands, Clanfield v University of Portsmouth, Durlay v Colden Common, Hamble Club v Liss, Headley v Hedge End Rangers, Infinity v Four Marks, Locks Heath v Winchester Castle, Lyndhurst v Baffins Milton Rovers, Michelmersh & Timsbury v Liphook.

WYVERN COMBINATION LEAGUE
Premier Division: AFC Totton v Bemerton HH, Wimbome Town v Eastleigh.

Division One East: Colden Common v Locks Heath, Horndean v Hayling, Newport IoW v Alresford Town, US Portsmouth v Alton.

Division One West: Christchurch v Downton, East Cowes Vics v Laverstock & Ford, Romsey Town v Fawley, Team Solent v Ringwood.

WYVERN SHIELD

League phase: (C) Lymington Town v Folland Sports, (D) Moneyfields v Petersfield, (A) New Milton v Tadley Calvea, (B) Verwood v Hythe & Dibden.

SOUTHAMPTON SENIOR CUP
First round: Winch City Res v Comrades.

Non-league Football

Non-league News

Whitchurch hand City a Premier Div shock
WHITCHURCH United turned the form book upside down as they ended Winchester City's unbeaten start to the Sydenhams Premier campaign at the Denplan City Ground on Tuesday.

A superb solo goal from Isaac Sedu won the game on 37 minutes as he collected the ball wide right, cut inside with a mazy run and drove home off the post.

Jubilant Whitchurch boss Jim Macey said: "This has to be my best result as Whitchurch manager."

"We went down there with a game plan to have pace in all areas and, full credit to all the players, it worked as we pushed and pressed them everywhere on the pitch."

"Shane Lock and Jason Graham made sure their back four were unable to play the ball out and Curtis Angell, Tom Pemberton and Luke Walker also had excellent games."

Victory made amends for the disappointment of last Saturday when Whitchurch lost out to a late winner at home to reigning league champions Blackfield & Langley.

With the game seemingly heading for a goalless draw, Blackfield's recent signing Wayne Boud swung a free-kick in from the left which eluded everyone before sneaking in at the back stick. "I don't think we deserved to win the game, but we did not deserve to lose it," said Macey.

"I felt we matched them, so it was gutting to lose to a goal in the 91st minute, which came from a free-kick that never was."

Blackfield boss Glenn Burnett, pictured, admitted: "We didn't play that well, but we're just trying to get 11 fit bodies out at the moment and no one's going to remember how we played in six months when they look back at that result."

But the Watersiders' injury and unavailability problems caught up with them on Tuesday when they suffered a shock 2-1 home defeat against Lyminster Town.

Blackfield have added to their depleted ranks with ex-Bournemouth Poppies left winger Luke Ingram.

OUT OF ORDER!

Hill blasts opening fixtures

Wendy Gee

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NON-LEAGUE REPORTER
TEN points is a pretty decent return from Eastleigh's first five games of the Skrill Conference South season.

But manager Richard Hill remains far from happy with the demands placed on his players in the opening weeks of the campaign.

Hill maintains that squeezing four games into the first ten days of the season was unfair on all clubs and that Eastleigh were particularly hard done to land a Tuesday night trip to Bath City before tackling two demanding Hampshire derbies over the August bank holiday weekend.

Having beaten Sutton at home and Bath away, the Spitfires banked just one point from the county clashes with Basingstoke and Havant & Waterlooville.

And, by Hill's own admission, Eastleigh's players "took a bit personally" suggestions from some elements of the fan base that seven points from four games wasn't good enough for a quality squad looking to win the league.

Defending his team, he said: "We had four tough games and what people forget is that, while we had to go to Bath on that first Tuesday, Basingstoke were at home to Gosport having played (another of the newly promoted teams) Concord Rangers on the Saturday while we were playing a Sutton side who are among the title favourites."

"And when Havant came to us, they'd been at home on the Saturday (to Weston-super-Mare) and they'd had no midweek game due to the Farnborough situation, whereas we'd been travelling all over the south."

Hill's men hit the road again last Saturday, inflicting a 3-0 defeat on Boreham Wood in Hertfordshire, courtesy of Craig McAllister, Stuart Fleetwood and Jai Reason (penalty).

They were due to return home today against league leaders Bromley but, with six of their next nine league games to be played away from home, Hill is understandably unhappy with the way the fixtures have panned out.

Having already played back-to-back away fixtures against Bath and Basingstoke, the Spitfires are scheduled to travel to Ebbsfleet and Gosport in successive matches next month followed by quick-fire visits to Dover and Sutton.

"Our fixtures are completely out of order," he snapped. "I'm really disappointed with how the format



ANGRY: Eastleigh boss Richard Hill.

has panned out for us.

"In a competition that should be even, the fixtures have not looked very kindly upon us in my opinion."

"People say it evens itself out over the course of the season, so let's play the first 21 away and the next 21 at home then! But if we did that, it would be unfair, wouldn't it?"

"But isn't it also unfair that nine or our first 15 games are away from home and, within that sequence, we've got three groups of two away games on the spin? It's just wrong."

"If we can get to the Sutton game (away, November 2) in good shape, we should be fine."

It was no coincidence that, having finally managed to recharge their batteries with four free days follow-

ing the Havant game, the Spitfires looked rejuvenated at Boreham Wood.

"After Havant, we didn't train until the Thursday and, even then, we did very little because we'd picked up a few knocks," said Hill.

"The lads were good in every way against Boreham Wood."

"They looked fresh and bright, played some good football at times and controlled the game."

With Chris Todd, Dean Beckwith and skipper Glen Southam all nursing knocks, Hill was partially grateful for a free midweek leading up to today's game against Bromley.

But another part of him couldn't help but despair at another glaring disparity in the fixture list.

"It just about sums it up," he said. "After jamming four games into ten days, we've now gone Saturday to Saturday."

"There was no need for that Tuesday night game (at Bath) straight after Sutton. That could have been played this week."

"Or, better still, we could have started the season a week earlier than August 17."

"Everyone was ready to go the week before and the Football League and the Conference Premier had already kicked off."

"The main show had started and the side-show was still kicking its heels."

● RICHARD Hill is not the only manager to be unimpressed with the congested start to the Skrill Conference South season.

Steve Brown, manager of Eastleigh's fellow title hopefuls Ebbsfleet, was unimpressed by kicking off the season against Havant & Waterlooville on August 17 and then squeezing three more games into the next nine days.

While Football League clubs returned to action on August 3 and Skrill Premier clubs started a week later, those in the sixth tier were left kicking their heels for another seven days.

"I don't mind having a lot of games in a short space of time if there's a cup competition to be played, but when you see every other league start a week earlier and then they squeeze four games in ten days, it makes no sense to me," said Brown.

"Squads are tested to the limit almost immediately and it's something that could have been easily rectified with an earlier start date."

"Why can't we start the week before and stretch that out a little bit?"

"It's harsh on every Skrill South side and the squads you have at this level."

Charlie wants to leave Town

CHARLIE Clough's days at Dorchester Town appear to be numbered after the Skrill Conference South club accepted a transfer request from the defender this week.

However, until any offer that comes in for the former Bristol Rovers man is approved, he will remain part of Phil Simkin's first-team set-up.

Clough, pictured, who turned 23 on Wednesday, submitted his request following last Saturday's 3-1 home defeat by Ebbsfleet United in which he and goalkeeper Alan Walker-Harris were sent off.

Walker-Harris, who had made a host of superb saves, was red-carded after bringing down Fleet

striker Michael Thalassitis in the box following a poor 66th-minute back pass by Neil Martin, while Clough received a second yellow in injury-time.

The centre-half signed a new one-year deal at the Avenue Stadium late last season with the Magpies saying they would not stand in his way should a Football League club come in for him.

But despite plenty of speculation over the summer, no offers were received for Clough and he has started all five of the team's Skrill South fixtures so far.

Manager Simkin is disappointed at the prospect of losing one of the key cogs in his side.

"Cloughy is an exceptional player and no one wants to lose good players," he said.

"But the situation is what it is and he has asked for a transfer and been put on the list."

"Cloughy is a professional and will continue to do a job. "I'll be very sorry to lose him but, with full-time training at the right club, he could step up to League football."



Non-league Football

Back to earth for City

IT'S been a week of heavenly highs and lamentable lows for Winchester City.

After pulling off one of the shock results of the FA Cup preliminary round, Graham Kemp's side were brought crashing back to earth on Tuesday as their unbeaten start to the Sydenhams Premier season shuddered to a halt.

Everything in the Denplan City garden looked rosy on Saturday as goals by Ben Osborne (2) and Chris Flood (penalty) sent Southern League South & West visitors Swindon Supermarine crashing to a 3-0 defeat.

But the smiles quickly vanished on Tuesday when a superb individual goal from Isaac Sedu sent Whitchurch United home triumphant in the league.

"It was a case of after the Lord Mayor's Show for us," said Kemp, reflecting on the 1-0 defeat.

"On Saturday we scored at good times, but tonight we missed those chances."

"We had no Tom Price or Liam Robinson and we lacked a bit of flair."

"At best we deserved a draw, but I wouldn't say we did enough to win."

Fair play to Whitchurch, they worked hard and they were a good outfit."

It had been all so different on Saturday as Winchester punished a previously unbeaten Supermarine side who had banked ten out of 12 points in the Southern One South & West.

Supermarine boss Dave Webb gave Winchester full credit afterwards and felt they were unrecognisable from the team that had propped up the South & West table last season.

"They're a much-improved team and credit to them because they took their chances," he said. "They got goals at good times and it kills you. There's no excuses on our behalf, we didn't do the simple things right."

Winchester will welcome another South & West outfit to the Denplan City Ground next Saturday when Mangotsfield United come calling in the first qualifying round.

"Mangotsfield haven't had as good a start in the league as Supermarine, but I've heard they want to get promoted," said Kemp. "We'll have them watched and see what we can do."



BEN OSBORNE

FA Cup planning pays off for Portchester

MICK Jenkins reckons AFC Portchester reaped the rewards for getting their preparation spot on for last Saturday's FA Cup trip to Godalming Town.

The Wicor Rec outfit pulled off one of the shock results of the preliminary round, beating the Southern One South & West outfit 1-0 in leafy Surrey.

Barely a minute had passed when Josh Holmes ventured off down the right and beat a couple of defenders before cutting inside and picking out teammate Lewis Stockford.

The former Pompey and AFC Totton midfielder did the rest, transferring the ball onto his left foot and planting a deadly first-time shot into the top corner.

It sets up Portchester with another

away tie against Sydenhams Premier rivals Horndean next Saturday.

"Whenever you turn up in the FA Cup, you've got to make sure you're properly prepared and organised and we did that last week," said Portchester's director of football Jenkins. "If you don't prepare, then prepare to fail," as they say.

"We're trying to do things the right way. We did a pre-match at the club and then got the coach to Godalming and we'll do that for every round that goes by."

"If the club prepares right, it takes all the excuses away from the players."

"I've been around football for a long time (at clubs like Havant and Dorchester) and we're trying to run Portchester along those lines."

"We're teaching the lads to do the right things and they're buying into

it. They're training Tuesdays and Thursdays with Graham Rix and Louis Bell and they're responding to the information we're giving them."

If Portchester had any nerves ahead of last Saturday's tie, they quickly vanished when Stockford struck inside a matter of seconds.

"Scoring early settled everyone down," said Jenkins. "Both defences were excellent on the day. Our two centre-backs Danny Audin and Craig Hardy got their head on everything and Simon Stone has been very consistent at left-back since we signed him from Horndean. He was our player-of-the-season last year and rightly so."

Josh Maddison, who's usually a centre-back, played at right-back for us and did a good job in what was a timely first clean sheet of the season. "Godalming haven't made a great start in the league, but they made the Southern One Central play-offs last season, so it was good for a Wessex club to go there and get a result."

"It was one of a few shocks, what with Winchester beating Swindon Supermarine and Hamworthy winning at Wimborne. It just goes to show how strong the Wessex League is becoming."

"We're a club building for the future and wins like this are a big help financially."

On paper next Saturday's trip to Horndean looks a little easier, but Jenkins warned: "Horndean are a very experienced Wessex Premier side. We will give them the respect they deserve."

As if to prove that point, Horndean blitzed Fareham Town's previously unbeaten league record 5-2 at Five Heads Park on Tuesday with Dan Martin (2), Gerald Joseph, Aaron Fennemore and Adam Turner all on target. Fareham's cause wasn't helped by having Sam Doswell sent off early on, but Town boss Matt Parr acknowledged: "Fair play to Horndean, they were outstanding."

Louie Martin and Ash Tattersall scored for the Creeksiders. Portchester also had a big midweek win, 4-0 at Romsey Town. Goals by Danny Thompson, Jamie Musselwhite, Nathan Kirby and substitute Simon Woods lifted them to fourth in the Sydenhams Premier table.



MICK JENKINS: Praised the Portchester defence.

Non-league News

Moneyfields snap up midfielder Wilkinson
FORMER Eastleigh midfielder and assistant manager Shaun Wilkinson has penned playing forms for Sydenhams Premier outfit Moneyfields.

Wilkinson started out at Brighton & Hove Albion and has since played for many of the area's leading non-League clubs including Havant & Waterlooville, Weymouth and Eastleigh.

He was appointed Ian Baird's assistant at Eastleigh in a player/coach's capacity in October 2011 and stayed on briefly as right-hand man to Baird's predecessor Richard Hill the following season.

But the new partnership didn't work out and Guy Butters was brought in to replace him.

Moneys have also signed ex-Romsey and Blackfield & Langley man Ashley Johnson from Sydenhams Premier neighbours AFC Portchester.

All was well that ended well for Moneyfields on Tuesday as they finally saw off Longwell Green Sports in the FA Cup preliminary round.

Miles Rutherford's men had raced 2-0 up in the opening half-hour at Dover Road on Saturday with Steve Hutchings and ex-Saint Bobby Scott on the scoresheet.

But, with Hutchings later sent off, they were pegged back for a 2-2 draw and forced to travel to Bristol for a midweek replay.

Playing in front of a hostile crowd, Scott had his 15th-minute opener scrubbed out on the hour.

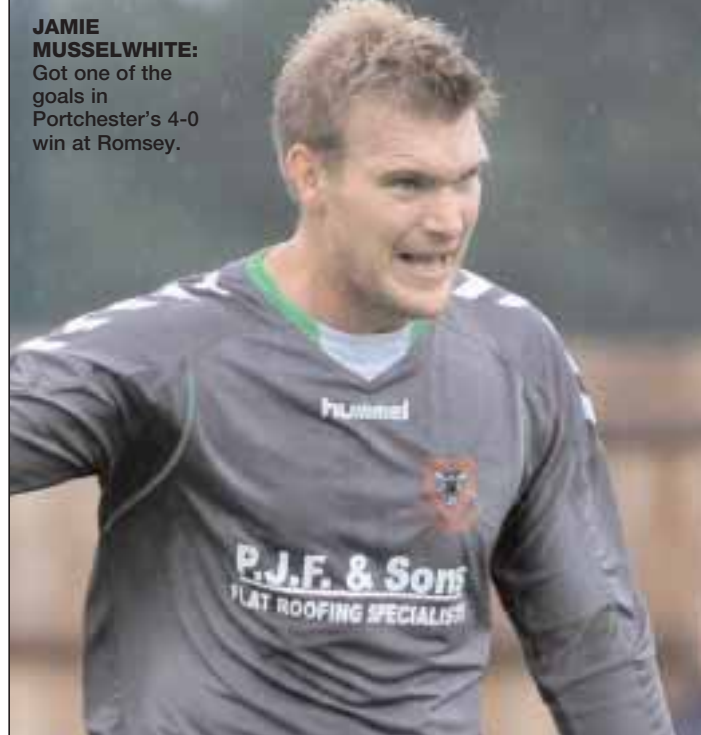
But villain-turned-hero Hutchings saw the Portsmouth outfit through 2-1 with a superb left-foot strike from 20 yards with just two minutes remaining. "We dug deep and deserved to go through," said Moneys' boss Rutherford.

Moneys now have a New Forest date with Southern Premier outfit Bashley next Saturday (September 14) in the first qualifying round.

● Fareham Town will also face Southern Premier opponents when Weymouth come calling next Saturday.

The Creeksiders won their preliminary round tie 2-0 away to ten-man Newport IOW with summer signing Sam Knight from Alton Town bagging his second brace of the season.

"It was a solid, professional display and we can now look forward to testing ourselves against Southern League opposition," said Fareham boss Matt Parr.



JAMIE MUSSELWHITE: Got one of the goals in Portchester's 4-0 win at Romsey.

Non-league Football

Non-league News

Playing part-time can give Dan bonus
EX-SAINT Danny Higginbotham hopes playing part-time football will extend his playing career by a year or two.

The 34-year-old joined Skril Conference Premier outfit Chester after leaving Sheffield United where he had signed a six-month contract in January following six fantastic years at Stoke City.

"I was a little frustrated last season, so this is all about enjoying my football again," said the defender, pictured, who started his career with Manchester United and went on the play for Derby, Saints, Stoke and Sunderland.

"I've always said that if you look after yourself, you'll get some bonus years at the end of your career."

"I don't want anyone to be thinking I've come to Chester for an easy ride. I'm here to do my very best for the football club."

"People might say 'He's played in the Premier League, he's done this or that.' But that doesn't matter now, that was in the past and this is a new chapter."

Poole bring in City defender Jagger

POOLE Town have re-signed Exeter City's Jacob Jagger Cane on a one-month loan.

The midfielder has come through the youth ranks at Exeter, but has made just one senior appearance so far.

He was loaned to the Dolphins last season and played a part in helping them secure the Southern One South & West title.

His latest loan will cover for the loss of Steve Devlin to a three-match suspension.

Devlin was sent off in the Dorset derby with Weymouth over the August bank holiday weekend.

STEVE DEVLIN:
 Three-match suspension.

Premier class is tough on Millers

Wendy Gee

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NON-LEAGUE REPORTER

STUART Hussey admits his Totton & Eling side have been "left behind a little bit" in a vastly improved Sydenhams Premier Division.

Not only has the return of Sholing and Winchester City raised standards in the Wessex top tier, but many of the fair-to-middling clubs have improved beyond all recognition, leaving T&E struggling without a point from their first five league games.

"Despite us making four or five good signings in the summer, we've been surprised by how teams have upped their game – and their budget – to bring in some half-decent players at this level," confessed Millers' co-boss Hussey.

"A lot of clubs are at least paying petrol money, whereas we've got nothing like that to offer."

"We've got a new ground, we've done a lot of work on the pitch and we've got new kits and tracksuits, but we don't even have a bar, to be fair, so it's difficult to compete."

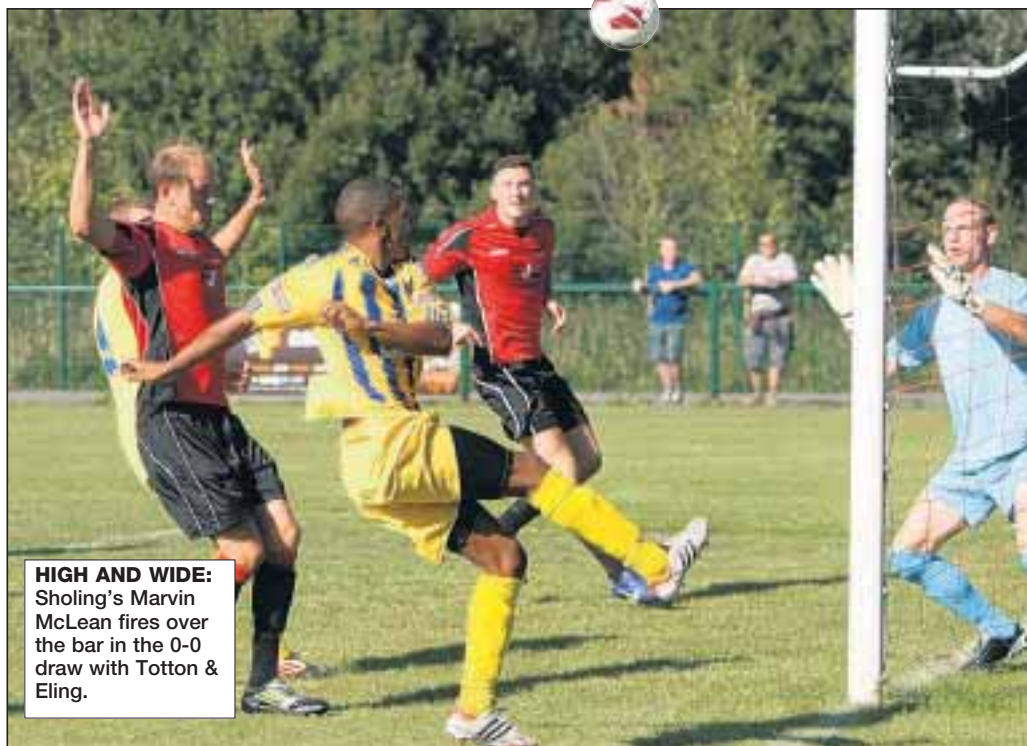
"We've got no given right to be a mid-table side at this level especially with the way other clubs are improving."

"The majority are paying a bit of money and that turns heads."

"Clubs have realised they've got to do that to compete and, at the moment, we've fallen behind."

While Hussey is confident the Millers can make up some of the lost ground, he admitted: "There's no quick fix and it will take time."

"Matt (co-manager Matt Hussey)



HIGH AND WIDE:
 Sholing's Marvin McLean fires over the bar in the 0-0 draw with Totton & Eling.

and I are not going to be able to turn things around quickly like we did at Winchester City and Lymington Town."

"If it means we're going to be in a relegation scrap this season, then so be it, but what we're trying to do is build the club up both on and off the pitch."

"Ed Holmes, our chairman, is

working closely with (director of football) Andy Tipp to take things forward but, at the moment we can only go for a certain type of player. The better players are signing for clubs with money."

One of the drawbacks of not paying players is that clubs have little control over their availability.

That is biting hard at many clubs

– witness Verwood, who had to play 51-year-old coach Danny Saxby for a full 90 minutes last Saturday because their squad was so depleted.

And T&E were themselves without ten would-be first-teamers for their gutsy 0-0 FA Cup draw with title favourites Sholing last Saturday.

'Stoke can bring back four

BASINGSTOKE Town may have equalled their best ever start to a Conference South season, but manager Jason Bristow is refusing to get carried away.

The Camrose club last amassed 12 points from their opening five games in 2004/05, the first year of competition in the Conference South, writes **John Boyman**.

Their excellent form had them second in the table prior to today's trip to Whitehawk, with only goal difference separating

them and leaders Bromley, who were due to visit Eastleigh this afternoon.

But while Bristow is delighted with the start his side have made, he says they can perform better.

"It's great to have a good start, get points on the board and get the supporters behind you – but it's more important that you build on it," he said.

"There's still a lot more to come, which is good, but we need to start performing as we know we

can soon or we will get found out.

"We have got a very good squad so I am not surprised by the start we have made. The players we have brought in have good experience and knowledge so I was always quite confident and expected us to make a decent start."

The good news for Basingstoke is that four of the six players forced to sit out last weekend's 2-1 win over Staines were expected to return to the squad against league

newcomers Whitehawk today.

The game may have come too soon for ex-AFC Totton man Nathan Campbell's hamstring problem, while former Saints and Eastleigh forward Jordace Holder-Spooner could be out until Christmas with a dislocated shoulder. But goalkeeper Louis Wells, defenders Robbie Rice and David Ray, and ex-Eastleigh and Salisbury striker Robbie Matthews were all expected to be fit.



INJURED:
 Holder-Spooner

MORE FOOTBALL NEWS IN MONDAY'S ECHO

Non-league Football

"The season's not even a month old and already we're struggling to get a side out and that won't be allowed to continue," stressed Hussey.

"The players have got stand up and be counted and do a bit more for the club."

"(Ex-Saint and T&E player/coach) Dave Puckett said he's never, ever seen a situation before where the manager's got to stand up in the dressing room and ask who's available."

"It's a wake-up call for everyone to realise how much stronger clubs have got in this league."

"But we took this job on knowing it's a non-paying club and we're not going to use that as an excuse because we've got players here who maybe could get paid at other clubs."

"I'm sure lads like Beng'yela Ngwa, Shaun Hughes, Luke Ansell and Murray Holmes are all players other clubs would like to have."

"When we first came here (in February) we thought we could turn the club around virtually overnight but, so far, we haven't been able to make as much of a difference as we'd have liked."

"But we'll stick with it and, if it takes us three years to get it right, then it takes three years."

Recent arrivals to the T&E fold are left-sided player James Embree, formerly of Romsey, Winchester City and New Milton, ex-Brockenhurst goalkeeper Kevin O'Rourke, younger brother of current Badgers Nol Scott, and exciting, young striker Jude Nwachukwu, who has moved to the area to study at Southampton Solent University.

Jude is out to make a name

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NON-LEAGUE REPORTER

HE'S got the kind of surname that gives journalists nightmares, but Totton & Eling hope a whole lot more will be talked and written about Jude Nwachukwu in the weeks and months to come.

The 20-year-old striker made a highly promising starting debut for the Millers in last Saturday's 0-0 FA Cup preliminary round draw against Sholing and already there are signs of him building up a good understanding with fellow frontman Beng'yela Ngwa.

Born in Nigeria, Nwachukwu moved to England ten years ago.

His home town is Horsham, west Sussex, but he has recently upped sticks to do a sports studies with business degree at Southampton Solent University.

He has previously played in the Sussex League where he graduated into senior football from Horsham YMCA's under-18 side and proceeded to give defences the run-around.

From Horsham he joined Sussex neighbours Loxwood who described him as a "talented, forward-minded player with pace and skill."

Once his uni place in Southampton had been confirmed, Nwachukwu took to the Internet to find himself a new club.

He wrote to both Winchester City and Totton & Eling and quickly decided that Millers Park was the place for him.

"I just want to play football and I was looking for a local club to join when I moved to Southampton," he explained.

"I contacted Totton & Eling in advance through their website and I wrote to



HIGH RISER: Beng'yela Ngwa wins a header in the 0-0 draw against Sholing on Saturday.

Winchester too, but Totton were more appealing because they seemed more interested in me.

"I came off the bench in the Lymington Town game and got my first start against Sholing."

"I'm enjoying it here. They seem like a good group of lads and they've made me feel very welcome."

Originally a winger, Nwachukwu has converted to a centre-forward and already feels at home alongside the deceptively strong Ngwa.

His pace was a first-half feature of last Saturday's game and it needed an excellent tackle by Sholing powerhouse defender Pete Castle to dispossess him after he had raced onto Ngwa's headed flick-on.

"That (the Sholing game) was the first time Beng'yela and I have played together and it worked well," he said.

"He holds the ball up and he's strong in

the air and out-jumped the Sholing defence a few times. I'll chase those flick-ons all day long!"

"I know Sholing are one of the best teams in our league, so it was pleasing to get our first clean sheet of the season."

"It's been good and I'm hoping to make things happen this season."

Nwachukwu resumed his frontline partnership with Ngwa in Tuesday's replay at the Silverlake Arena. It was another closely-fought tie, but Sholing came out on top 2-1.

Once again T&E showed their battling qualities, hitting back through an Adam Lowther penalty - given for goalkeeper Matt Brown's foul on Nwachukwu - after Mike Carter had put Sholing ahead.

But Ashley Jarvis had the final word, booking the Boatmen an eagerly awaited home tie against T&E's neighbours AFC Totton next Saturday.

Non-league News

Five-goal blitz is too much for Tadley
TADLEY Calleva produced a spirit second-half performance at Southern One Central side Chalfont St Peter in the FA Cup preliminary round last Saturday.

Unfortunately for the Sydenhams One underdogs, the damage had already been done in the first 45 minutes as they bowed out of the competition 5-3.

Tadley fell behind in the first minute and conceded again from a penalty harshly awarded against Les Wood for handball.

Matt Aslett pulled one back with a half-volley but, by half-time, the visitors were 5-1 down.

They did themselves proud after the break, however, with the hard-working Brett Denham and Wood putting some gloss on the scoreline.

"I must thank all the supporters who gave up their time to travel to the game and made it a great atmosphere," said Tadley boss Danny Dolan. "We took a 100-seater double-decker and at least they had three goals to cheer."

"I could not ask for any more from my players, but their boss gave them a real roasting on the pitch after the game."

"We had a brilliant day out in the Cup, but now we have to get back to picking up league points."

Tadley's divisional rivals Cowes Sports gave another Southern League side, Yate Town, a scare when Lee Davies fired them into an eighty-minute lead in Gloucestershire. But the Isle of Wight visitors eventually succumbed 2-1 as late goals by Ross Staley and Lewis Haldane spared the blushes of a Yate side that made the first round proper last season.

Lymington Town were turned over 7-1 at free-scoring Bristol Manor Farm, for whom George Brimston bagged his second hat-trick of this year's competition.

Lymington's reply was netted by Shane Sim, who had earlier missed a penalty.

Pike talking to refs
ALEX PIKE, the inspiration behind Gosport Borough's meteoric rise from the Sydenhams League to the Conference South, will be guest speaker at the next meeting of the Eastleigh Referees' Society.

The Privett Park boss will take centre stage at Chandler's Ford Central Club (SO53 2FZ) on Monday, September 9, kicking off at 7.30pm.

Vet Andy needs to pull his socks up

VERWOOD Town boss Adie Arnold and his backroom staff were forced to make shock playing comebacks last Saturday.

The Potters were so short of players for the Sydenhams Premier Division clash with Downton that Arnold, his assistant Andy Darnton and coach Danny Saxby dusted off their boots to make up the numbers.

While Darnton was an unused sub and Arnold, 50, made a brief cameo, the plaudits went to 51-year-old Saxby who turned on the style in a

fine 90-minute display as honours finished even 1-1.

Arnold, who plays vets' football, as does Saxby, laughed: "The chairman calls it old, I call it experience! "We had nine players missing from the squad and we were down to the bare bones."

"Danny Saxby is 51 and he played the whole 90 minutes. He did really well and didn't look out of place. He looked after the ball and was one of the better players. I'm 50 and played for the last 20 minutes. Hopefully it

was a one-off!"

Southampton-based Darnton, the youngest of Verwood's managerial trio, was relieved that his services weren't required - not least because he needs a knee operation.

"It took me half an hour to get my socks over my calves! My hands were blue trying to pull them up!" joked the former Bashley and Fleet defender.

Needless to say Verwood are hunting players to strengthen their squad.

"We've had a reasonably solid start in the league with a win and three draws from six games, but we're a bit thin on the ground," said Darnton.

"Defender Jamie Thoroughgood should be back with us in a couple of weeks."

"He's training to be a doctor and he's away studying tropical medicine."

"He's got Southern League pedigree (with Guildford City) and will definitely strengthen the squad."

TODAY'S NON-LEAGUE ACTION IS ON PAGE 7

Non-league Football

Non-league News

Pike: Gosport have quality to climb table

GOSPORT Borough boss Alex Pike cut a frustrated figure following last Saturday's 2-1 Skrill Conference South defeat at Bromley.

After getting off the mark with two successive draws against Bath City and Dorchester, it was back to square one for the divisional new boys who, going into today's home game against Maidenhead, were still awaiting their first league win.

Bromley weren't at their best, but goals by Pierre Joseph-Dubois and substitute Steve Smith gave them breathing space before Borough hit back with a Justin Bennett penalty with five minutes remaining.

Bennett, pictured, could have had another, but goalkeeper Lewis Carey got a touch to his goalbound effort, and Danny Smith had earlier hit a weak shot straight at Carey with only the 'keeper to beat.

"I'm frustrated and I'm annoyed," fumed Pike afterwards. "They were sloppy goals from our point of view and on another day we could have got something out of the game."

"We showed at Bromley that we can compete at this level, but we're not clinical enough and that's the problem."

"This is a tricky league and they pack the box with big lads and that's proved costly for us so far. But the players have got us into this mess and the players will get us out of it," he vowed. "Once we sort ourselves out, our quality will get us climbing up the table."

Pike need only look back to last year to know that his side possess remarkable powers of recovery. They struggled at the start of last season too, but got their act together in spectacular style and ended up gaining promotion as winners of the Southern Premier Division play-offs.

Borough have signed Portsmouth central midfielder Nick Awford on a three-month loan. The son of Pompey legend Andy, Awford joined the Fratton Park outfit in 2011 and played under his father's management in the academy side.

He was promoted to Pompey's first-team squad in April this year, making his debut against Sheffield United in April.

Plummer's speed makes difference

PAT McManus believes Lerone 'Rudy' Plummer adds a new dimension to Brockenhurst's attack.

The Badgers haven't quite made the start they were hoping for following promotion to the Sydenhams Premier, but Plummer's introduction was a turning point in Saturday's 2-0 FA Cup win over Folland Sports.

With Brock's Mark Barker hitting the bar with a first-half free kick and ex-Badger Pip Nolan heading over a clear chance for Follands, the tie was still goalless midway through the second half.

But that all changed following Plummer's introduction as Scott Joyce edged the Foresters ahead before the super sub bagged the second.

It sets up Brock with a mouth-watering first qualifying round visit to Poole Town next Saturday (August 14).

Plummer recently moved to Grigg Lane from Eastleigh, where he was part of the reserve team set-up last season.

In January he got a first-team run-out for Richard Hill's Spitfires in the Hampshire FA Senior Cup tie against AFC Bournemouth's development squad, which the Spitfires lost on penalties.

"Rudy's only a kid of 18 or 19 and he's still learning, but he gives a different dimension to us going forward with his pace," said Brock manager McManus. "He's lightning quick and he's good on the ball as well."

"He came to us after the Verwood game in the middle of last month and he'll be involved with us quite a bit."

"It was a good day for us against Follands. We played better than we'd done for a while and we're all looking forward to going to Poole - especially Joyce against his old club."

Having just gone up to the Calor Southern Premier Division, Poole now play two leagues higher than Brock and, judging by their start, Tom Killick's charges must rank among the favourites to reach the Conference South.

But that won't overawe former Q&K Southampton and Winchester City reserves boss McManus who said: "We're just happy to still be in the Cup."

"From a monetary point of view nearly £3,500 banked from two games is a lot for a club like Brock."

"We know the size of the task ahead of us at Poole, but we'll enjoy it and just see what happens."

The Sydenhams League have

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NON-LEAGUE REPORTER

already pulled off their share of FA Cup shocks against higher league opposition with Winchester slaying Swindon Supermarine, AFC Portchester gunning down Godalming and Hamworthy United wounding Wimborne Town.

"If we go to Poole and play to the best of our ability and they have an off-day, then who knows?" said McManus.

"That's what it would take (to pull off an upset) and we'll be setting ourselves up to try and win it."

Long-term, though, Brock need to perform better in the league after slumping to three straight defeats to Fawley, Bemerton and AFC Portchester.

"We started the season well enough, but we've turned promising into poor," said McManus.

"We didn't play well against Bemerton but we had a few out and missed Scott O'Rourke in goal against them and Fawley."

"Against Portchester we were unlucky. It was 1-1 and we had two late penalties awarded against us for alleged fouls by Dave Marden on Jamie Musselwhite."

"All told, the referee gave three penalties against us and none of them were!"

"For the first one, which Scotty saved, their lad dived, and Musselwhite sucked the referee in for the other two - a lad of his size going down! For one of them, the assistant flagged the other way but the ref ignored it."

In the temporary absence of No1 'keeper Scott O'Rourke, his younger brother Kevin took over in the Badgers' goal.

But Brock are now in the market for a new understudy after Kevin left to join divisional rivals Totton & Eling, who needed a replacement for the unavailable Tony Harrop.



PACEY: Lerone 'Rudy' Plummer.

Havant defence breached

ITALIAN midfielder Christian Nanetti pipped striker Sahr Kabba for Havant & Waterlooville's August player-of-the-month award.

It was a two-horse race for the honour with 21-year-old Nanetti edging his teammate by just two votes.

Kabba netted for Hawks in Saturday's home Skrill Conference South game against Tonbridge Angels, drilling home from the edge of the area.

But, having brought his side back on terms after Luke Blewden gave the visitors an eighth-minute lead, Kabba watched on in despair as Tonbridge nicked it in the final seconds.

Scott Bevan seemed to have Ryan Watts' speculative effort from outside the area covered, but it hit defender Ed Harris and totally wrong-footed Havant's ex-Saints goalkeeper.

Reflecting on the 2-1 defeat, Hawks

boss Lee Bradbury said: "A draw would have been a fair result, but a cruel goal at the death has stuck the knife in us. It was a gutting way to lose, but we were a little bit off-song as far as our defending was concerned. We looked vulnerable for the first time this season."

Prior to Blewden's early strike, the previously unbeaten Hawks had not conceded a league goal all season.

Non-league Football

Whites start to shine

IMPROVING Salisbury City stretched their unbeaten run to three games as they coasted past nine-man FC Halifax in the Skril Conference Premier at Old Sarum last Saturday.

Halifax had already had two sent off in their opening day horror show at Cambridge United.

And it was deja-vu at the Ray Mac where Kevin Holsgrove was the first to see red for lashing out at Glenn Wilson and then Josh Wilson foolishly followed suit by threatening to head-butt the Salisbury skipper.

City already led by an Elliott Frear goal and tired legs eventually caught up with Halifax in the second half as Luke Rudnick and Ben Wright sealed a 3-1 victory for the hosts.

But a trio of consecutive clean sheets was scuppered when Wilson appeared to get the final touch on Halifax's 87th-minute corner.

Whites boss Mikey Harris was a happy man after watching his newly-promoted side make it seven points out of the last available nine.

He said: "We are starting to move in the right direction.

"I was absolutely delighted with the win and we scored three excellent goals as well.

"I'm so pleased with the way the team have responded to the disappointment of our first three defeats.

"We've learned a lot from our mistakes, but the lads are annoyed they didn't get a clean sheet."



HAPPY: Salisbury boss Mikey Harris.

Allen on wrong end of derby day defeat

IT was hard to ignore the irony of Dave Allen's return to Bashley from AFC Totton last week.

Following the break-up of last season's Totton squad due to the financial problems engulfing the Salisbury Road club, the midfielder/striker was left in two minds whether to stay or go during the summer.

Having missed much of the 2012/13 campaign with a broken foot, Allen flitted between Totton and Bash during the summer, turning out for both Southern Premier clubs in pre-season friendlies.

And, according to Totton boss Steve Riley, he remained undecided until finally signing along the dotted line for Bashley last week.

Living in the Bournemouth area, geography swayed his final decision, but so too did Allen's desire to play for a side that

can compete. With few senior players remaining, Totton seemingly faced a long, hard slog trying to keep their heads above water in a highly demanding league with a team of experienced youngsters.

Bashley, on the other hand, pulled off one of the summer's big signing coups when attracting ex-Basingstoke, Aldershot and Torquay targetman Tim Sills to the Recreation Ground.

But, against the odds, Totton triumphed when the clubs met in the August Bank Holiday fixture at the Testwood Stadium.

And it was Totton who followed it up with an impressive three-point haul at Chippenham last Saturday, while Bash lost at home to Bideford.

Asked about Allen's departure, Stags' former Bashley boss Riley said: "Dave told me he wanted to be with a club that can compete. But I can't fault him," he added.

"To be honest, Dave had grown a bit disillusioned with football and I wondered if he might perhaps take a year out.

"He was a bit unsure what he was going to do and I tried to coax him into staying, but Bashley's a lot closer to home for him.

"Good luck to Dave. I felt for him when he went. Even when he was signing the transfer forms, he was still undecided about what to do."

Former Winchester City skipper Allen was a huge success in his last spell at Bashley during Riley's time in charge. He scored 45 goals in 110 games for the New Forest club.

Welcoming him back to the Recreation Ground, Bash co-boss Stewart Kearn said after the Bideford game: "Dave did well. He was injured a lot of the time last year and he needs minutes.

"Dave gave us a presence in there and he will grow

into the game and become more pivotal for us."

Both Totton and Bashley suffered midweek league defeats. Totton clawed back from 2-0 down to level 2-2 with Truro City at the Testwood Stadium, but were cruelly beaten by an 89th-minute Matt Andrew winner. Bash crashed 4-1 at Chesham, dropping to the foot of the table on goal difference.

Kearn, who took over at the Bash helm with long-serving player Paul Gazzard in the summer, acknowledged: "It is not the start any manager wants, especially when they are starting out on their managerial career.

"It would be very easy to make massive changes early on, but the players have got our full backing.

"The camp is still very confident and buoyant, which is a good sign.

"It is not panic stations yet, but we need that win to get the ball rolling."

Non-league News

Best result yet for Hamworthy boss

SIMON Browne is celebrating his best result as manager of Hamworthy United.

The happy Hammers stunned Dorset neighbours Wimborne Town 3-1 at Cutbury in the FA Cup preliminary round last Saturday.

Browne's Sydenhams Premier Division outfit started as underdogs against a Magpies side harbouring hopes of promotion from the Southern One South & West.

But Dominic Allen's second penalty in two games and goals from Sam Lanahan and substitute Sam Pekun proved too good for Wimborne, who had only a late Matt Kemble reply for comfort.

"I said to the guys before the game that I honestly believed we could win it," said delighted former Salisbury City defender Browne, pictured.

"We have not really had anything to crow about in the FA Cup since I have been here and this is by far and away the best result in my time as manager."

The win sets the Hammers up with a September 14 trip to Western Premier outfit Hallen, who overcame Bournemouth Poppies (Zouaoui Lammali, Kane Andrews) 4-2 at Victoria Park.

Both Poppies' and Wimborne's weeks lurched from bad to worse on Tuesday.

Bournemouth crashed to a 2-1 extra-time defeat against lower league Hythe & Dibden in the Sydenhams League Cup, while Wimborne lost 1-0 at Thatcham in the Southern South & West.

To make matters worse for the Magpies, they lost influential goalkeeper Jason Harvell to a groin strain after 77 minutes.

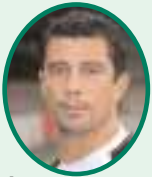
"It is too early to determine how serious the injury is," said a worried Cuss afterwards.

Ex-Saint Adam Wallace's stunning fifth-minute volley was enough to carry Thatcham to victory.

Bray signs for Poppies MUCH-TRAVELLED goalkeeper Jamie Bray has signed for Bournemouth Poppies.

Bray numbers Winchester City and Blackfield & Langley among his former clubs.

Poppies' former Hamworthy United player Stuart Ellis.



Goal start for Brad

BRAD Fountain has started as he means to go on for AFC Bournemouth.

The former Eastleigh starlet has joined the Cherries as a scholar and scored for their under-18 side in a 1-1 draw with Cheltenham Town at Fawcett's Field last Saturday.

It took the 17-year-old Sholing lad - a trialist with Norwich, QPR, Stoke and Bournemouth last season - just eight minutes to find the net.

The towering midfielder unleashed a ferocious drive from 20 yards that nestled in the bottom left-hand corner.

Fountain almost doubled the lead ten minutes later, but his effort from inside the box was blocked and scrambled to safety by the well-manned Cheltenham defence.

The second half produced few chances, but the visitors managed to take one and force a draw.

Fountain joined Eastleigh from Colden Common as an under-16s player and, in his first season, was part of the squad which won the Hampshire Cup at St Mary's, where he scored.

He began the 2012/13 campaign as a first-year under-18 before quickly progressing to the Spitfires' Suburban League reserve side.

Having coped well with the challenge of men's football, he began training with Richard Hill's first team in February this year and went on to feature in 12 squads for a side that finished fourth in the Conference South.

He captained Eastleigh's under-18s to Hampshire Cup glory in May.



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Premiership Spotlight



PREMIER LEAGUE INS AND OUTS – SUMMER TRANSFER WINDOW 2013

ARSENAL

Ins: Yaya Sanogo (Auxerre, free), Mathieu Flamini (AC Milan, free), Emiliano Viviano (Palermo, loan), Mesut Ozil (Real Madrid, £42.4m)

Outs: Denilson (Sao Paulo, free), Andrey Arshavin (Zenit St Petersburg, free), Sebastien Squillaci (Bastia, free), Sanchez Watt (Colchester, free), Vito Mannone (Sunderland, undisclosed), Andre Santos (Flamengo, undisclosed), Jernade Meade (Swansea, free), Gervinho (Roma, undisclosed), Chuks Aneke (Crewe, loan), Ignasi Miquel (Leicester, loan), Marouane Chamakh (Crystal Palace, undisclosed), Martin Angha (Nuremberg, free), Elton Monteirol (Club Brugge, free), Reice Charles-Cook (Bury, free).

ASTON VILLA

Ins: Nicklas Helenius (Aalborg, undisclosed), Jores Okore (Nordsjaelland, undisclosed), Leandro Bacuna (FC Groningen, undisclosed), Aleksandar Tonev (Lech Poznan, undisclosed), Antonio Luna (Sevilla), Jed Steer (Norwich, free), Libor Kozak (Lazio, undisclosed)

Outs: Richard Dunne (QPR, free), Jean Makoun (Rennes, free), Eric Lichaj (Nottingham Forest, free), Andy Marshall (Millwall, free), Brett Holman (Al Nasr, undisclosed), Graham Burke (Shrewsbury, loan), Samir Carruthers (MK Dons, loan), Nathan Delfouneso (Blackpool, loan), Darren Bent (Fulham, loan), Enda Stevens (Notts County, loan), Malcolm Melvin (Notts County, free), Derrick Williams (Bristol City, free), Courtney Cameron (Torquay, free), Stephen Ireland (Stoke, loan), Barry Bannan (Crystal Palace, undisclosed)

CARDIFF CITY

Ins: Andreas Cornelius (FC Copenhagen, £7million), John Brayford (Derby, undisclosed), Steven Caulker (Tottenham, £8m), Gary Medel (Sevilla, £11million), Simon Moore (Brentford, free), Maximiliano Amondarain (CA Progreso, undisclosed), Kevin Theophile-Catherine (Rennes, £2million).

Outs: Heidar Helguson (released), Stephen McPhail (released), Ben Nugent (Brentford, loan), Joe Ralls (Yeovil, loan), Elliot Parish (Bristol City, free)

CHELSEA

Ins: Andre Schurrle (Bayer Leverkusen, £18million), Marco van Ginkel (Vitesse, £9million), Mark Schwarzer (Fulham, free), Stipe Perica (NK Zadar, undisclosed), Willian (Anzhi Makhachkala, £32million), Samuel Eto'o (Anzhi Makhachkala, free)

Outs: Yossi Benayoun (released), Paulo Ferreira (retired), Florent Malouda (Trabzonspor, free), Ross Turnbull (Doncaster, free), Thibaut Courtois (Atletico Madrid, loan), Marko Marin (Sevilla, loan), Oriol Romeu (Valencia, loan), Cristian Cuevas (Vitesse, loan), Wallace (Inter Milan, loan), Ben Gordon (Ross County, free), Jeffrey Bruma (PSV Eindhoven, £2.5million), Rohan Ince (Brighton, free), Adam Coombes (Notts County, free), Gael Kakuta (Vitesse, loan), Christian Atsu (Vitesse, loan), Sam Hutchinson (Vitesse Arnhem, loan), Ulises Davila (Cordoba, loan), Romelu Lukaku (Everton, loan)

CRYSTAL PALACE

Ins: Stephen Dobbie (Brighton, undisclosed), Dwight Gayle (Peterborough, undisclosed), Jerome Thomas (West Brom, free), Jose Campana (Sevilla, undisclosed), *cont on page 16*

Are the foreigners

Simon Carter

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SPORTS EDITOR

IT is a debate which will seemingly only end when England manage to repeat their 1966 World Cup success.

That is, to what extent are the overseas players who have flooded into the Premier League damaging the national team's chances of big tournament success?

Prior to Friday's meeting with Moldova at

Wembley, Roy Hodgson's side were second place in their 2014 World Cup qualifying group, two points behind Montenegro with a game in hand.

But they needed to look over their shoulders, as Ukraine – who England visit next Tuesday – are just a point behind.

If England manage to top their group and qualify for Brazil, all will be well – for the time being.

If they finish second and have to go through the play-off lottery, nerves will be jangling.

And if England don't finish in the top two at all, or lose in the play-offs, prepare for an outpouring of angst like never before.

If that latter nightmare scenario unfolds, expect the Premier League to come in for a kicking.

The organisation has been fingered as a factor behind recent international failures – from the main England team down to the younger ones.

The England under-21 team, featuring Saints right back Nathaniel Clyne, flopped badly in this summer's European Championships, failing to get past the group stage.

It was a similar tale of woe for the England under-20 team.

Featuring Saints midfielder James Ward-Prowse, they failed to get past their group stage at the U20 World Cup.

The ongoing surfeit of foreigners in the top flight will no doubt again be held up as a primary reason for the national team's malaise if England don't make it to Brazil.

No wonder new FA chairman Greg Dyke was so keen to mention the overseas problem during his high-profile speech this week.

But it is not a new argument at all. Back in 2008, then Premier League chairman Dave Richards said the amount of foreigners in the top flight had cost Steve McClaren his job as England boss.

"Does the Premier League hurt the national side? The answer has to be yes," Richards said at the time.



EXPENSIVE IMPORT: Victor Wanyama. Right – Luke Shaw.

The argument will go on and on ...

"We've been a bit lazy in the Premier League over the years.

"We created a system of academies and every club spends about £3m a year developing young players. But it hasn't worked, because the availability for us to go out and buy the best stars is an easy thing.

"Anybody who comes into the league needs to stay in it, so needs to buy the best stars."

That much remains true, and Reading's failure to buy proven international quality contributed to their downfall last term.

Returning to 2008, Richards added: "Steve (McClaren) will tell you that he has to have the best players avail-

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Premiership Spotlight

really to blame?**ENGLISH TALENT:** Jack Cork and James Ward-Prowse.

able and the Premier League has hurt him.

"In fact, I would probably go as far as to say the Premier League has probably cost him his job. Because what we've done, we've actually bought all these foreign players in."

Two years later, after England's flop at the 2010 World Cup, the Premier League was again being called to account, this time by the president of Spain's La Liga.

José Luis Astiazarán questioned the number of young foreign players at Premier League clubs and said the principal reason Spain won the tournament was down to the amount of home-qualified players in their domestic league.

"In La Liga there are 77.1%

Spanish players, 16.7% European and 6.7% non-European," Astiazarán said.

"Our strategy is to work very hard with young home-grown players and to try to have a mix between them and experienced players.

"Why is it not a high number of foreign players in La Liga? Because we invest more and more in young Spanish players than in young foreign players.

"In Arsenal, Liverpool, Manchester United there are a lot of young Spanish, French and Italian players – maybe this is why you are

not creating young English players. "These [young foreign] players cannot play for the English national team. It's good to have goalkeepers from out-



FLOP: But did foreign players contribute to Steve McClaren's English managerial misery?

side. But how many English goalkeepers are in the Premier League?"

Those words might have been spoken three years ago, but they still ring true.

Ex-England star Gary Neville waded into the debate last month.

"I looked at a list of players signed into the Premier League," he said. "I'm well-read on football but, honestly, I'd never heard of 50-60 per cent of them.

"All right, we might unearth lots of talent from abroad. And some fantastic foreign players and managers have enhanced British football no end.

"But I used the phrase 'tipping point' last season and I feel we're going too far right now.

"We need to protect our English, Scottish, Welsh, Northern Irish and Irish national teams by giv-

ing more boys from those countries more opportunities.

"The way I see it, British football clubs and managers, the Football Association and the Premier League need to come together as one.

"We all want a successful group of home nations which produce more domestic players.

"It's not just England. Look what's happened to Scottish football. Look at the Republic of Ireland. Roy Keane, Niall Quinn, Steve Staunton, Paul McGrath and Kevin Moran always played on English soil and in the Premier League.

"We need to come together and get back to a point where there is a quota system of some kind.

Continued on page 17

POMPEY FIXTURES
2013/14**AUGUST**

Sat 3 Oxford (H)L 1-4
Agyemang

Tues 6 B'mouth LC1 (A) .L 0-1

Sat 10 Accrington (A) . . .D 2-2
Connolly 2

Sat 17 Morecambe (H) .W 3-0
Wallace, Connolly, Agyemang

Sat 24 Mansfield (A) . . .D 2-2
Barcham, Connolly

Sat 31 Chesterfield (H) . .L 0-2

SEPTEMBER

Tues 3 Torquay FLT1 (a) .D 0-0
Won on penalties

Sat 7 Cheltenham(A)

Sat 14 Burton(A)

Sat 21 Fleetwood(H)

Sat 28 York(A)

OCTOBER

Sat 5 Rochdale(A)

Sat 12 Plymouth(A)

Sat 19 Bury(H)

Tues 22 Wycombe(H)

Sat 26 Torquay(A)

NOVEMBER

Sat 2 Exeter(H)

Sat 16 Wimbledon(A)

Sat 23 Scunthorpe(H)

Tues 26 Southend(H)

Sat 30 Hartlepool(A)

DECEMBER

Sat 14 Newport(H)

Sat 21 Bristol Rovers(A)

Thurs 26 Dag & Red(H)

Sun 29 Northampton(H)

JANUARY

Wed 1 Southend(A)

Sat 4 Accrington(H)

Sat 11 Oxford United(A)

Sat 18 Mansfield(H)

Sat 25 Morecambe(A)

Tues 28 Wycombe(A)

FEBRUARY

Sat 1 Torquay(H)

Sat 8 Exeter(A)

Sat 15 Wimbledon(H)

Sat 22 Scunthorpe(A)

MARCH

Sat 1 Chesterfield(A)

Sat 8 Cheltenham(H)

Tues 11 Burton(H)

Sat 15 Fleetwood(A)

Sat 22 York(H)

Tues 25 Rochdale(A)

Sat 29 Newport(A)

APRIL

Sat 5 Hartlepool(H)

Sat 12 Dag & Red(A)

Sat 19 Bristol Rovers(H)

Mon 21 Northampton(A)

Sat 26 Bury(A)

MAY

Sat 3 Plymouth(H)

GOT A VIEW ON SAINTS? COMMENT ONLINE AT dailyecho.co.uk

Premiership Spotlight



PREMIER LEAGUE INS AND OUTS – SUMMER TRANSFER WINDOW 2013

from page 14

Kevin Phillips (Blackpool, free), Elliot Grandin (Blackpool, free), Marouane Chamakh (Arsenal, undisclosed), Neil Alexander (Rangers, free), Florian Marange (Bordeaux, free), Jason Puncheon (Southampton, loan), Jimmy Kebe (Reading, undisclosed), Jack Hunt (Crystal Palace, undisclosed), Adrian Mariappa (Reading, undisclosed), Barry Bannan (Aston Villa, undisclosed), Cameron Jerome (Stoke, loan)

Outs: Andre Moritz (Bolton, free), Alex Marrow (Blackburn, free), Ryan Inniss (Cheltenham, loan), Jermaine Easter (Millwall, free), Jason Banton (MK Dons, loan), Aruna Dindane (released), Peter Ramage (Barnsley, loan)

EVERTON

Ins: Arouna Kone (Wigan, £6m), Antolin Alcaraz (Wigan, free), Joel Robles (Atletico Madrid, undisclosed), Gerard Deulofeu (Barcelona, loan), Romelu Lukaku (Chelsea, loan), Gareth Barry (Man City, loan), James McCarthy (Wigan, £13million)

Outs: Thomas Hitzlsperger (released), Jan Mucha (Krylia Sovetov, free), Phil Neville (retired), Francisco Junior (Vitesse, loan), Victor Anichebe (West Brom, rising to £8million), Marouane Fellaini (Man Utd, £27.5million)

FULHAM

Ins: Sascha Riether (Cologne, undisclosed), Derek Boateng (Dnipro, free), Fernando Amorebieta (Athletic Bilbao, free), Maarten Stekelenburg (Roma, undisclosed), Ange-Freddy Plumain (Lens, free), Adel Taarabt (QPR, loan), Darren Bent (Aston Villa, loan), Scott Parker (Tottenham, £2m), Elsad Zverotic (Young Boys, undisclosed)

Outs: Chris Baird (released), Simon Davies (released), Mahamadou Diarra (released), Miladen Petric (released), Mark Schwarzer (Chelsea, free), Ryan Williams (Oxford, loan), Marcus Bettinelli (Accrington, loan), Alex Smith (Swindon, free), Danny Hoesen (Ajax, undisclosed), Richard Peniket (Tamworth, free), Dan Burn (Birmingham, loan)

HULL CITY

Ins: George Boyd (Peterborough, free), Maynor Figueroa (Wigan, free), Curtis Davies (Birmingham, undisclosed), Ahmed Elmohamady (Sunderland, £2million), Allan McGregor (Besiktas, undisclosed), Steve Harper (Newcastle, free), Danny Graham (Sunderland, loan), Yannick Sagbo (Evian, undisclosed), Jake Livermore (Tottenham, loan), Tom Huddlestone (Tottenham, £5million), Gedo (Al Ahly, loan)

Outs: Andy Dawson (Scunthorpe, free), Seyi Olofinjana (released), Jay Simpson (released), Tom Cairney (Blackburn, loan), Corry Evans (Blackburn, undisclosed), Danny Emerton (Northampton, free), Jamie Devitt (Chesterfield, free), Mark Oxley (Oldham, loan), Jack Hobbs (Nottingham Forest, loan), Paul McKenna (released), Joe Cracknell (released), Connor Townsend (Carlisle, loan), Cameron Stewart (Charlton, loan)

LIVERPOOL

Ins: Kolo Toure (Manchester City, free), Iago Aspas (Celta Vigo, £7.7million), Luis Alberto (Sevilla, undisclosed), Simon Mignolet (Sunderland, undisclosed), Aly Cissokho (Valencia, loan), Tiago Ilori (Sporting Lisbon, undisclosed), Mamadou Sakho (Paris St Germain, undisclosed), Victor Moses (Chelsea, loan)

Outs: Danny Wilson (Hearts, free), Jamie Carragher (retired), Andy Carroll (West Ham, £15million), Michael Ngoo (Yeovil, loan), Suso (Almeria, loan), Jack Robinson (Blackpool, loan), Jay Sparring (Bolton, undisclosed), Stewart Downing (West Ham, £5million), Oussama Assaidi (Stoke, loan), Jamie Stephens (Newport, free), Jonjo Shelvey (Swansea, £5million).

Continued on page 18

DYKE CALLING ON

Simon Carter

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SPORTS EDITOR

FOOTBALL Association chairman Greg Dyke intends to have Premier League representation on the commission he will set up in a bid to find a solution to the declining numbers of English players in the top flight.

Dyke this week expressed severe concerns about the state of the national game.

He is worried that, if the present trend of top-flight clubs to bring in overseas players is not addressed, England can forget about ever being competitive on the international stage.

Yet, because the FA has such limited power – Dyke recalled one recent request from a club to have a player released from a development team because he was required for first-team duty only to fail even to get on the bench – the Premier League will have to be on board for any changes to take effect.

“If we are to have any chance of success it’s important that football as a whole recognises the problem and buys into the possible radical solutions,” Dyke said.

“That is why I have invited the chairmen of both the Premier League and the Football League to join the commission along with the chairmen of the League Managers’ Association and the Professional Footballers’ Association.”

Dyke also wants input from managers, players, academics and even journalists in the search for solutions.

However, even from his own brief investigations, he is acutely aware how complex the issue is going to be.

“Some say it’s because English kids are not good enough. That technically they don’t learn enough when they are young,” Dyke said.

“Others say we haven’t got enough coaches trained to a high enough level.

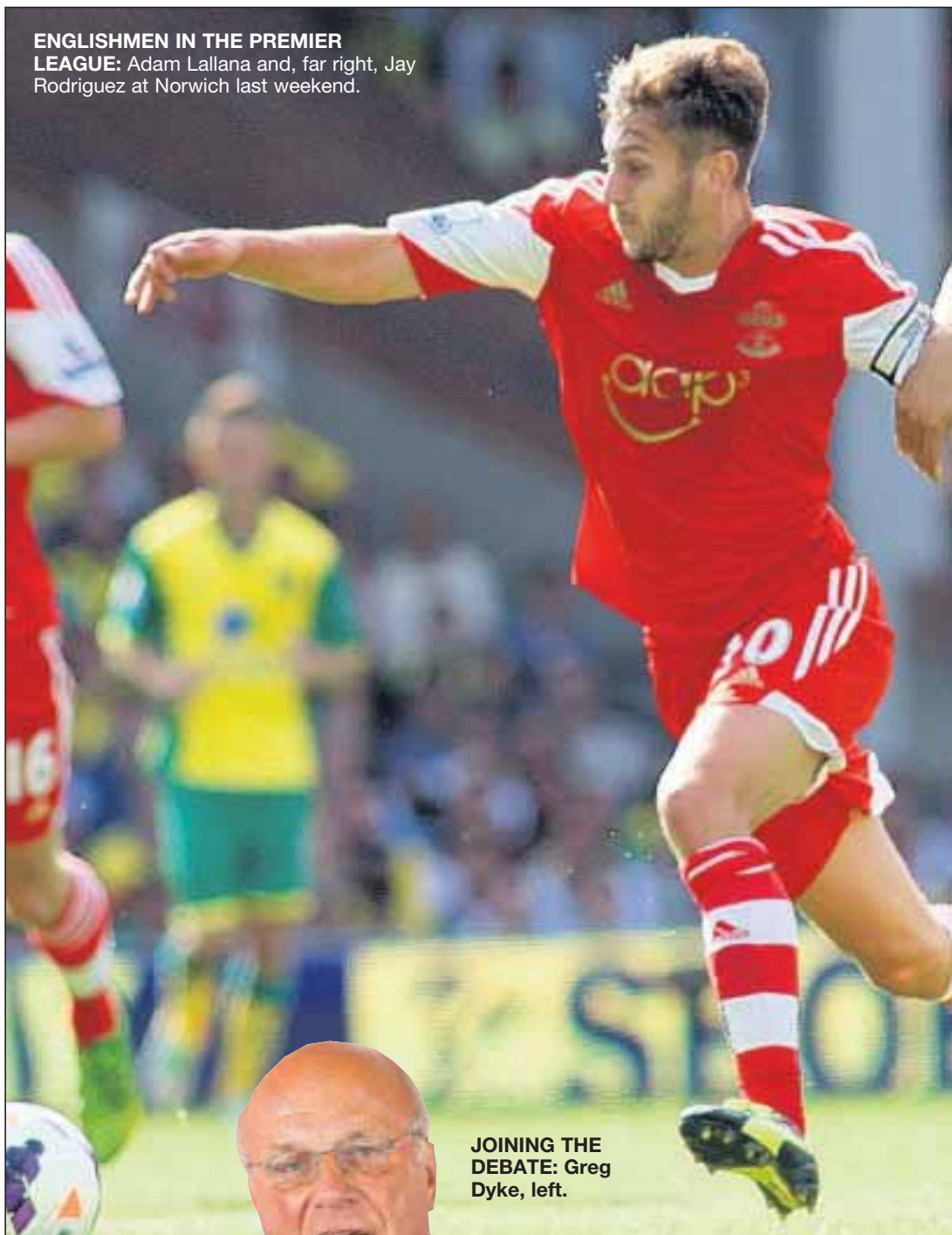
“Some of the youth team coaches I have met argue we do have the kids with potential but not enough of them get a chance in the Premier League because it’s easier to sign someone from overseas.

“Then there are others who say the problem is caused by the owners of Premier League clubs being so impatient for success that no manager will put his job on the line by taking a chance on English kids.

“Another explanation put forward by a lot of people is that it is cheaper to sign overseas players.

“Others argue that if your top league is largely foreign owned with foreign managers why should those in control care about developing the England team?”

ENGLISHMEN IN THE PREMIER LEAGUE: Adam Lallana and, far right, Jay Rodriguez at Norwich last weekend.



JOINING THE DEBATE: Greg Dyke, left.

You cannot argue with that theory.

After all, someone like Saints chairman Nicola Cortese is paid to do the best he can for

his club, not the England national side.

And the \$64m question, I suppose, is this: Would Saints fans prefer to see their club qualify for a European competition or England doing well in the Euros or World Cup?

Evidently, though, the subject is worth exploring

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Premiership Spotlight

PREMIER AID



"Last weekend only 65 English players started in the Premier League with another 14 coming on as substitutes."

With Chelsea and Aston Villa not playing, that worked out at an average of 4.3 English players for each of the 18 clubs.

Saints were above average in that they fielded five Englishmen in the loss at Norwich.

Calum Chambers, James Ward-Prowse, Adam Lallana and Rickie Lambert all started, with Jay Rodriguez coming off the bench.

No doubt that total would have been six had Luke Shaw been 100 per cent fit.

Saints, therefore, are doing their bit, and last season fielded more Englishmen than any other top flight club.

It will be intriguing to see if that remains the case in 2013/14 following the arrival of three expensive overseas players.

Dyke highlighted the examples of Wigan, who won the FA Cup with only one Englishman in their starting line-up, and Sunderland, who have signed 14 players this summer but only one of them English.

"No-one can argue that the overall trend isn't anything but alarming," Dyke said.

The issue is not unique to England. The other major league also have diminishing numbers of home-grown players.

However, what England do not have are exports, with Roy Hodgson's squad for the World Cup qualifier with Moldova drawn exclusively from the Premier League - with one exception in Celtic goalkeeper Fraser Forster.

"We are not Belgium or Holland where most of their top players are playing abroad or even France, Spain or Italy who are now frequently exporting significant numbers of players," Dyke said.

"Almost uniquely amongst the top footballing nations, virtually all of our top players are playing in their home league.

"So if the best of our emerging young players can't get a game here it means we do have a serious problem."

for England's benefit because the figures are stark.

"Twenty years ago 69 per cent of all the players starting matches in the Premier League were qualified to play for England," Dyke said.

"Ten years later that figure was down to 38 per cent. Last season it was 32 per cent.

"Last season the number of

English players under the age of 21 who appeared in the Premier League filled only 2.3 per cent of the total number of minutes played.

"Only 35 English players under the age of 21 made appearances.

"This summer only 25 per cent of all new signings by Premier League clubs were qualified to play for England.

The debate that will run until we win World Cup!

From page 15

"I know people say you can't implement this because of European law but where there's a will there's a way."

The debate was reignited this week after the closure of the summer transfer window.

Concerns over the Premier League's reliance on overseas players heightened after it emerged that 90 per cent of spending during the window was on foreign stars.

Saints spent around £36m on three overseas players - Dejan Lovren, Victor Wanyama and Pablo Osvaldo.

Analysts Deloitte say that of the record-breaking total of £630million, £570million was spent on foreign players.

Former England captain Tony Adams believes that the high number of imports in the English top flight can only have a detrimental effect on the national team.

"I used to think that top-class foreign talent would have a positive effect on our young English players, that they would improve rubbing shoulders with them," he said.

"However, the reverse has become true, it has had an adverse effect. Buying up all this foreign talent is like buying the England team a ticket to oblivion.

"Unfortunately the young English talent has not come through and I'm worrying that they have become swamped by the sheer volume of foreign imports."

One person fed up with the Premier League regularly being blamed for international woe, however, is the organisation's chief executive Richard Scudamore.

He recently launched a passionate defence of his organisation against claims it is wrecking the England team.

While Scudamore has presided over astonishing TV revenue of £5.5billion for the three seasons that started last month, the number of home-grown talents within England's top flight has continued to dwindle at an alarming rate.

Only around 30 per cent of Premier League players are English - far fewer than major European rivals - meaning Hodgson has a thankless task trying to guide his team to major tournaments.

But Scudamore is sick of being told the elite 20 clubs are responsible for England's demise.

"It frustrates me enormously because it is so palpably not true," he

said.

"It is not the Premier League who ripped up the playing fields or didn't put money into schools.

"It is not my fault fewer young kids are kicking a ball around or that the country is not safe enough for seven-, eight-, nine-year-olds to go down to the park on their own, as I did, and play football until after dark.

"We have not won the World Cup since 1966. The Premier League didn't start until 1992.

"What happened between 1966 and 1992? Whose fault was that?

"It cannot be our fault on any level."

That is a fair point that not even the Premier League's critics should argue against.

England, without hardly any foreigners in the old First Division, famously failed to qualify for both the 1974 and 1978 World Cups.

That period is now commonly held up by nostalgists as a 'golden age' for English football, when in reality it was anything but - certainly at international level.

At First Division level, that era remains infamous for rampant hooliganism, some horrendous playing surfaces - who remembers the mudbaths of Stamford Bridge and the Baseball Ground? - and at times fearsome tackling.

It was a period when some of the most cultured footballers in the top flight - Tony Currie, Stan Bowles, Frank Worthington, Alan Hudson - all struggled to win international caps.

Scudamore believes the Football Association is looking for scapegoats for its own failings because it is easier than actually dealing with an issue that goes to the heart of the English game.

Scudamore is making no apology for what is a continuing trend of more foreign talent being brought in, despite significant advances in youth development.

The elite league clubs have extra millions to spend - thanks to the new overseas television contract - and a large chunk of that has been going overseas.

It would be stupid to think that scenario will change anytime soon.

"We are putting on a competition the best players in the world want to play in," said Scudamore, and again no-one could seriously argue against him.

"The population of England is only 60million and there are 212 countries playing this game.

"We are blessed to have 20 of the world's largest 50 clubs. Within that 20, we have between three and five of the biggest 10, and those 10 are the ones vying for the top talent.

"The idea an England team is going to be put together that will somehow beat the world is logically and mathematically implausible."



SUNDAY LEAGUE SPOTLIGHT - SEE PAGE 29

PREMIER LEAGUE INS AND OUTS – SUMMER TRANSFER WINDOW 2013

from page 16

Tyrell Belford (Swindon, free), Jose Reina (Napoli, loan), Conor Coady (Sheffield United, loan), Henoc Mukendi (Partick, loan), Fabio Borini (Sunderland, loan)

MANCHESTER CITY

Ins: Jesus Navas (Sevilla, £14.9million), Fernandinho (Shakhtar Donetsk, £30million), Alvaro Negredo (Sevilla, £16.4million), Stevan Jovetic (Fiorentina, £22.4million), Martin Demichelis (Atletico Madrid, undisclosed).

Outs: Kolo Toure (Liverpool, free), Ryan McGivern (Hibernian, free), Wayne Bridge (Reading, free), Roque Santa Cruz (Malaga, free), Carlos Tevez (Juventus, undisclosed), Maicon (Roma, undisclosed), Reece Wabara (Doncaster, loan), Denis Suarez (Barcelona, undisclosed), Scott Sinclair (West Brom, loan), Albert Rusnak (Oldham, loan), Jeremy Helan (Sheffield Wed, free), Karim Rekik (PSV Eindhoven, loan), Abdul Razak (Anzhi Makhachkala, loan)

MANCHESTER UNITED

Ins: Guillermo Varela (Atletico Penarol, undisclosed), Marouane Fellaini (Everton, £27.5million)

Outs: Paul Scholes (retired), Sam Johnstone (Yeovil, loan), Scott Wootton (Leeds, undisclosed), Sean McGinty (Sheffield United, free), Frederic Veseli (Ipswich, free), John Cofie (Barnsley, free), Reece Brown (Watford, free), Luke McCullough (Doncaster, free), Reece James (Carlisle, loan), Ryan Tunnicliffe (Ipswich, loan), Angelo Henriquez (Real Zaragoza, loan), Nick Powell (Wigan, loan)

NEWCASTLE UNITED

Ins: Olivier Komen (Metz, undisclosed), Loic Remy (QPR, loan)

Outs: Steve Harper (Hull, free), Yven Moyo (released), Danny Simpson (QPR, free), James Perch (Wigan, undisclosed), Shane Ferguson (Birmingham, loan), Michael Richardson (Accrington, loan), Adam Campbell (Carlisle, loan), Brad Inman (Crewe, undisclosed), JJ Hooper (Northampton, free), Nile Ranger (Swindon, free), James Tavernier (Shrewsbury, loan), Mehdi Abeid (Panathinaikos, loan).

NORWICH CITY

Ins: Ricky van Wolfswinkel (Sporting Lisbon, £8.5m), Javier Garrido (Lazio, undisclosed), Nathan Redmond (Birmingham, undisclosed), Martin Olsson (Blackburn, undisclosed), Leroy Fer (FC Twente, undisclosed), Gary Hooper (Celtic, £5million), Johan Elmander (Galatasaray, loan), Carlo Nash (Stoke, free)

Outs: Marc Tierney (Bolton, free), Lee Camp (released), Simeon Jackson (Eintracht Braunschweig, free), Elliott Ward (Bournemouth, free), Declan Rudd (Preston, loan), Jed Steer (Aston Villa, free), Chris Martin (Derby, free), James Vaughan (Huddersfield, undisclosed), Grant Holt (Wigan, undisclosed), Leon Barnett (Wigan, undisclosed), Korey Smith (Oldham, free), Tom Adeyemi (Birmingham, free), George Francomb (AFC Wimbledon, free), Andrew Surman (Bournemouth, loan), Kei Kamara (Sporting Kansas City)

SAINTS

Ins: Dejan Lovren (Lyon, £8.5m), Victor Wanyama (Celtic, £12.5m), Dani Osvaldo (Roma, £15million)

Outs: Frazer Richardson (Middlesbrough, free), Danny Butterfield (Carlisle, free), Vegard Forren (Molde, undisclosed), Richard Chaplow (Millwall, free), Steve de Ridder (Utrecht, free), Jason Puncheon (Crystal Palace, loan), Sam Hoskins (Yeovil, free), Ben Reeves (MK Dons, free), Danny Seaborne (Yeovil, free), Ryan Dickson (Colchester, free), Emmanuel Mayuka (Schoaux, loan), Tommy Forecast (Chelmsford, free)

STOKE CITY

Ins: Erik Pieters (PSV Eindhoven, £3million), Marc Muniesa (Barcelona, free), Juan Agudelo (New England Revolution, free), Oussama Assaidi (Liverpool, loan)

Continued on facing page

Why this celebration could earn Gareth more millions

GARETH Bale's career is set to soar on and off the pitch following the completion of his world record move to Real Madrid.

And if the ex-Saint can acclimatise and live up to the hype by reproducing anything like the form he showed at Spurs last season, the world game could have another star on its hands.

Success on the field could quickly be followed by more off it with the 24-year-old already having much in place to build a 'Bale brand'.

Most notably Bale has already trademarked an image of his "11 of Hearts" goal celebration.

Bale may have begun making a heart symbol with his hands after scoring as a nice gesture to his girlfriend.

But the act has become highly distinctive and, consequently, a powerful marketing tool.

The forward now has a logo based on this action, a picture of a pair hands making a heart shape around a number 11 – his Spurs and now Real Madrid shirt number – that can now be used on any merchandise he chooses to endorse.

Bale is already thought to earn £2million a year from his deals with adidas but new ventures based around the '11 of Hearts' could see him pocket many millions more in external income.

Brand expert Nigel Currie, director of sports marketing agency brandRapport, said: "This could be incredibly powerful."

"He has already been identified as one of the really hot prospects in the Premier League and now he is going to be in such demand."

"He is a really personable bloke. He looks good, comes across well."

"All those factors lend us to think he is going to be one of the next hot, hot properties on the marketing front."

"By protecting his image rights in the way that he has he and his management are obviously thinking ahead in terms of ways he can maximise his off-pitch earnings over the next three to five years."

"They have clearly got plans. They can launch brands or different products off the back of this."

Yet Bale need not just stop there.

The heart celebration would be the perfect mannerism to register under a new image rights law in Guernsey.

Last December the Channel island passed the first significant international law to allow celebrities to protect aspects of their personality in a formal way.

This could include images, catchphrases, gestures and voices and therefore goes much further than a trademark, potentially opening up a raft of new marketing possibilities.

For instance double Olympic long-distance champion Mo Farah could have registered his 'Mobot' celebration.

Any third party using such registered image rights without authorisation could be sued in Guernsey courts, and with reciprocal legal arrangements in place, this law could possibly be enforced in the UK.

Tennis player Heather Watson is one of the first professional sports players to take advantage of the legislation.

David Evans, director of law firm

TRADEMARK:
Gareth Bale's '11 of Hearts' goal celebration.



Collas Crill, who specialise in intellectual property matters, said: "At the moment what Gareth has done is register a trademark."

"You could imagine he'd put the trademark on clothing or footwear. It can be utilised in the course of business."

"The image right is a much wider

right than that."

"It doesn't demand a link to anything you are going to sell under that name or logo."

"It certainly has a great deal of potential for people like Gareth Bale and other people in that sphere."

"It gives you something completely different to what a trademark gives

you. That is not to say he shouldn't have got the trademark - that's a good thing - but it would certainly be of use to certain individuals to add an image right to the portfolio."

"How much someone could earn is not our area of expertise, but it's millions. The sky's the limit if it is managed properly."

GOT A VIEW ON SAINTS? EMAIL echosport@dailyecho.co.uk

Flashback to February 4, 2006 – and a 16-year-old Gareth Bale's first ever interview, in the Sports Pink. Here, we reproduce the article as it appeared back then

Bale emerges as Saints' trump card after losing Bridge

By **Simon Walter** ♦

GARETH Bale thrives on comparisons with Wayne Bridge.

The 16-year-old left-back is already being likened to the former Saints and England star following his impressive performances for the under-18s this season.

Bale said: "I thrive on it and am just happy that people compare me to a player like Wayne Bridge. I watched him a lot when I was younger and can understand the comparison because we're both left-backs that like to attack. But it's very flattering.

"I love watching Ashley Cole. I think he's probably the best in the world, but Wayne Bridge is not far behind. He's the second best in England, and I think they'll both go to the World Cup.

"They're both good at attacking and defending."

Like Bridge, Bale used to play on the left of midfield and has been on Saints' books since being spotted by Rod Ruddick, who is based at the club's satellite academy in Bath, while playing under-nine football.

This season he has worked closely with Georges Prost, who has been delighted with the first year scholar's progress.

Prost said: "Gareth is a good player and a good lad with a good, confident attitude and a lovely left foot.

"Wayne Bridge is a good comparison – he has pace and the ability to cross and is an exciting player for the future."

Bale has been a key figure in Saints' rise to the top of their section this season.

He has played 15 games for



the under 18s and six for the reserves.

"All of the boys are together and I'm enjoying every minute," added Bale, who was

BRIDGE-LIKE: Gareth Bale in full flow against Aston Villa Youth and, left, ex-Saint Wayne Bridge.

an unused substitute in last season's FA Youth Cup final first leg, and watched the second leg against Ipswich Town from the stands at Portman Road. "We've all been strong together, we know each other individually quite well so we bond well and that makes for a good defence."

Speaking before last night's FA Youth Cup fifth-round tie at Bolton Wanderers, Bale added: "The season couldn't really have gone any better so far – but we haven't achieved anything yet."

Cardiff-born Bale was watched by his parents Debbie and Frank last night.

Like his dad, he supports Arsenal but has even more reason to look out for the Gunners' results now that Theo Walcott, his former roommate at the Lodge, has joined the north London giants.

"I've got the room to myself now but going to Arsenal is good for Theo and hopefully he can do well there.

"He seems to like it there and can't wait to start."

From facing page

Marko Arnautovic (Werder Bremen, undisclosed), Stephen Ireland (Aston Villa, loan)

Outs: Dean Whitehead (Middlesbrough, free), Rory Delap (Burton, free), Matthew Upson (Brighton, free), Mamady Sidibe (released), Carlo Nash (Norwich, free), Matthew Lund (Rochdale, free), Cameron Jerome (Crystal Palace, loan)

*Agudelo has signed pre-contract agreement to join Stoke in January

SUNDERLAND

Ins: Duncan Watmore (Altrincham, undisclosed), Modibo Diakite (Lazio, free), Valentin Roberge (Marítimo, free), Cabral (Basle, free), Vito Mannone (Arsenal, free), Jozy Altidore (AZ Alkmaar, undisclosed), David Moberg Karlsson (IFK Gothenburg, undisclosed), El Hadji Ba (Le Havre, undisclosed), Emanuele Giaccherini (Juventus, undisclosed), Ondrej Celustka (Trabzonspor, loan), Charis Mavrias (Panathinaikos, undisclosed), Ki Sung-yueng (Swansea, loan), Fabio Borini (Liverpool, loan), Andrea Dossena (Napoli, undisclosed)

Outs: Simon Mignolet (Liverpool, undisclosed), Titus Bramble (released), Matt Kilgallon (Blackburn, free), Danny Graham (Hull, loan), Alfred N'Diaye (Eskisehirspor, loan), James McClean (Wigan, undisclosed), Billy Knott (Wycombe, loan), Ben Wilson (Cambridge, free), Ahmed Elmohamady (Hull, £2million), Adam Reed (Burton, free), Jonny Maddison (Crawley, free), Ryan Noble (Burnley, free), Jordan Pickford (Burton, loan), Jordan Laidler (Chester, loan), Phil Bardsley (released), Stephane Sessegnon (West Brom, undisclosed)

SWANSEA CITY

Ins: Jonathan de Guzman (Villarreal, loan), Jose Canas (Real Betis, undisclosed), Jordi Amat (Espanyol, £2.5million), Alejandro Pozuelo (Real Betis, undisclosed), Jonjo Shelvey (Liverpool, £5million), Gregor Zabret (NK Domzale, undisclosed), Alex Gogic (Olympiakos, free), Wilfried Bony (Vitesse, £12million), Jernade Meade (Arsenal, free), Roland Lamah (Osasuna, loan), Alvaro Vazquez (Getafe, loan)

Outs: Mark Gower (Charlton, free), Kyle Bartley (Birmingham, loan), Alan Tate (Yeovil, loan), Kerry Agustien (Brighton, undisclosed), Ki Sung-yueng (Sunderland, loan), Luke Moore (Elazigspor, free), Gwion Edwards (St Johnstone, loan)

TOTTENHAM

Ins: Paulinho (Corinthians, £17million), Nacer Chadli (FC Twente, £7million), Roberto Soldado (Valencia, £26million), Etienne Capoue (Toulouse, £9million), Erik Lamela (Roma, £25.8million), Christian Eriksen (Ajax, £11.5million), Vlad Chiriches (Steaua Bucharest, £8.5million)

Outs: David Bentley (released), William Gallas (released), Steven Caulker (Cardiff, undisclosed), Clint Dempsey (Seattle, undisclosed), Jake Livermore (Hull, loan), Tom Huddlestone (Hull, £5million), Scott Parker (Fulham, undisclosed), Jack Barthram (Swindon, free), Nathan Byrne (Swindon, free), John Bostock (Antwerp, free), Gareth Bale (Real Madrid, £85.3million), Benoit Assou-Ekoto and Tom Carroll (both QPR, both loan)

WEST BROMWICH

Ins: Goran Popov (Dynamo Kiev, loan), Nicolas Anelka (Juventus, free), Diego Lugano (Paris St Germain, undisclosed), Matej Vydra (Udinese, loan), Scott Sinclair (Manchester City, loan), Morgan Amalfitano (Marseille, loan), Lee Camp (free), Stephane Sessegnon (Sunderland, undisclosed), Victor Anichebe (Everton, rising to £6million)

Outs: Jerome Thomas (Crystal Palace, free), Gonzalo Jara (Nottingham Forest, free), Marc-Antoine Fortune (Wigan, free), James Hurst (Crawley, free), Romaine Sawyers (Walsall, free), Scott Allan (Birmingham, loan)

WEST HAM

Ins: Razvan Rat (Shakhtar Donetsk, free), Adrian (Real Betis, free), Andy Carroll (Liverpool, £15million), Stewart Downing (Liverpool, £5million), Daniel Whitehead (Stockport, free)

Outs: Carlton Cole (released), Gary O'Neil (QPR, free), Robert Hall (Bolton, free), Jordan Spence (Sheffield Wed, loan)

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Record transfer history

GARETH Bale has completed his move from Tottenham to Real Madrid for a world-record fee understood to be 100million euros (£85.3m).

Here, the Sports Pink looks back at the historic deals that pushed the world transfer record to new levels.

£10,890 - David Jack (Bolton to Arsenal, 1928): Having scored the first goal at the original Wembley while playing for Bolton in the 1923 FA Cup final, inside-forward Jack was already a noted history-maker when he switched from the Trotters to Arsenal for £10,890 - the world's maiden five-figure fee.

£142,000 - Luis Suarez (Barcelona to Inter Milan, 1961): Spain's 1960 Ballon d'Or-winning playmaker Suarez helped Barca to claim a glut of trophies and then did the same for Inter having switched clubs for the world's first six-figure fee.

£1.2million - Giuseppe Savoldi (Bologna to Napoli, 1975): Italy forward Savoldi spent four years with Napoli after they made him football's first £1million+ player by paying out 2billion lira.



WORLD RECORD: Alan Shearer moved for £15m in 1996 to Newcastle.

£6.9million - Diego Maradona (Barcelona to Napoli, 1984): Maradona broke the world transfer record for the second time in succession when he joined Napoli (having joined Barcelona for a then-record £5million), and with the Argentina attacker in their ranks, the Italian outfit had their most successful spell in their history, winning two Scudetti, a Coppa Italia and the UEFA Cup.

£10million - Jean-Pierre Papin (Marseille to AC Milan, 1992): Papin, the 1991 Ballon d'Or winner, had enjoyed great success in his six years with Marseille, but the France striker endured something of a struggle at Milan.

£15million - Alan Shearer (Blackburn to Newcastle, 1996): Shearer's valuation skyrocketed during a successful Euro 96 campaign, where he won the Golden Boot after scoring five goals. He moved to hometown club Newcastle amid much fanfare and did not disappoint, going on to become the club's leading scorer of all time.

£21.5million - Denilson (Sao Paulo to Real Betis, 1998): There was great excitement at the time about Denilson's £21.5million move to Betis, but he failed to make a major impact in seven years on the Spanish side's

Continued on facing page

May 2006: Gareth Bale helps Saints to youth win



CELEBRATION TIME: Gareth Bale, centre, and his Saints colleagues after beating Aston Villa in May 2006.

Whatever happened 2005/06 Saints title

SEVEN years ago Gareth Bale helped his Saints under 18s side lift the youth Premier League trophy.

Saints beat Aston Villa 3-2 at St Mary's on May 13 2006 with a hat-trick from David McGoldrick, writes **PETER HOWARD**.

After Bale became the most expensive player on the planet, the Sports Pink has traced all of his teammates from that title-winning side and their opposition that day.

Saints

Goalkeeper: Zac Jones

Current team: Unknown
Jones, who was on loan from Blackburn Rovers at the time, was sent back north and went onto play for Stockport, Forest Green, Barrow, Harrogate Town.
He was last seen at AFC Fylde in Northern Premier League but has since left the Preston-based club.

Right-back: Jamie Hatch

Current team: Unknown
Hatch left Saints soon after the title win and moved to Tiverton Town before a brief spell at Weymouth. He then spent a season in Australia with Whitsunday Miners in Queensland. Has since disappeared off the radar.

Centre back: Kyle Critchell

Current team: Weymouth
After failing to make any appearances for Saints' first team, he was released in 2007 and joined



MIXED EMOTIONS: Lloyd James celebrates as Villa players slump at the final whistle.

Chesterfield.

Spells at Weymouth, Wrexham, York City and Dorchester followed. He then rejoined Weymouth and is still there.

Centre back: Oliver Lancashire

Current team: Rochdale
Lancashire was part of the Aldershot side which was relegated from League Two last season.

He made 13 appearances for Saints before spells Grimsby Town,

Walsall and the Shots.

He is now at Rochdale in the fourth tier of the football league.

Left back: Gareth Bale

Current team: Real Madrid
Bale made 40 appearances and scored five goals for Saints before moving to Tottenham for £5m in 2007.

This summer he rocked the world by becoming the most expensive player in history as he agreed his moved Real Madrid.

Right wing: Jamie White

Current team: Salisbury City
White, who had a torrid time with a knee injury, made three first team appearances for Saints.

The young winger was tipped for the top but his persistent injuries left him with little hope.

A loan spell at Shrewsbury followed and plummeted to the lower divisions with Eastleigh and Totton & Eling.

White plundered 51 goals in the 2011/12 season for Wessex League champions Winchester City.

That won him a move to Salisbury, where his goals saw the Whites to promotion from the Blue Square South last term.

Centre midfield: Lloyd James

Current team: Leyton Orient
James made his first Saints start in Jan Poortvliet's first league game at Cardiff City in August 2008.

He banged in his first goal against Exeter City in a 3-1 win on Boxing Day 2009.

Surprisingly, after being virtually a first team regular in 2009/10, he was released that summer after making 71 appearances and scoring two goals.

Spells at Colchester and Crawley followed and he is now at Leyton Orient.

Centre midfield: Jake Thomson

Current team: Salisbury City
Player 14 games for Saints before moving to Bournemouth on loan in 2009 followed by Torquay.

On being released by Saints in 2010, he joined Exeter. Spells at Cheltenham Town and Kettering Town on loan in 2011/12 followed by a permanent contract at Forest Green Rovers.

The following year Newport County signed the twice-capped Trinidad and Tobago international before he moved to Lincoln City that season on loan.

Thomson signed for Salisbury City earlier this summer.

Left wing: Josh Dutton-Black

Current team: North Leigh
After starting his career at Oxford United, he was signed by Saints. Left St Mary's in 2007 and moved to Salisbury, Kidderminster, Bognor Regis, Eastleigh, AFC Totton and Didcot Town.

The winger has now settled at North Leigh in Southern League Division South & West.

Striker: David McGoldrick,

Current team: Ipswich
McGoldrick, the hat-trick hero,

SPORTS PINK - ALWAYS BEST FOR SAINTS NOSTALGIA

– but what became of the club's likely lads?



CELEBRATION TIME: Gareth Bale, left, after beating Villa.

to Bale's mates ...?

signed a three-year contract at the beginning of 2008/09.

After finishing his first full season as the club's leading scorer in their Championship relegation term, McGoldrick joined home-town club Nottingham Forest for around £1m.

After a successful loan spell at Coventry last season, McGoldrick joined Ipswich on loan last January and permanently in the summer.

Striker: Adam Lallana,

Current team: Saints

Stuck by Saints through their financial disarray and is now reaping the rewards for his loyalty, turning out as captain of a regular in the Premier League.

Substitutes

Luke Douglas: Unknown

Aristoteles De Carvalho: Once had dreams of playing for Benfica. Instead he played at Dorchester Town until the end of last season and is now in football no-man's-land

Cedric Baseya: Made one appearance for Saints before Crewe took him on loan.

Left to join French club Lille. Was loaned out to Le Harve and Cherbourg before moving back to England to join Reading.

Was shipped out on loan to Barnet before being released.

Michael Byrne: Played locally for AFC Totton and Winchester after being released by Saints.

Joseph Mills: Played 26 times for Saints but was also loaned out to Scunthorpe and Doncaster, before joining the latter permanently.

After moving to Reading, Mills went to Burnley on loan before joining the Clarets permanently this summer. Is now on loan at Oldham.

Aston Villa

Stephen Henderson: Plays for Ipswich Town on loan from West Ham

Scott Bridges: Banbury United

Stephen O'Halloran: Stockport County

Shane Lowry: Millwall

Paul Green: On loan from Forest Green Rovers at Hereford United

Christopher Herd: Aston Villa

Erik Lund: IFK Goteborg

Isaiah Osbourne: Blackpool

Craig Gardner: Sunderland

Adam McGurk: Burton Albion

Sam Williams: Unattached

Subs:

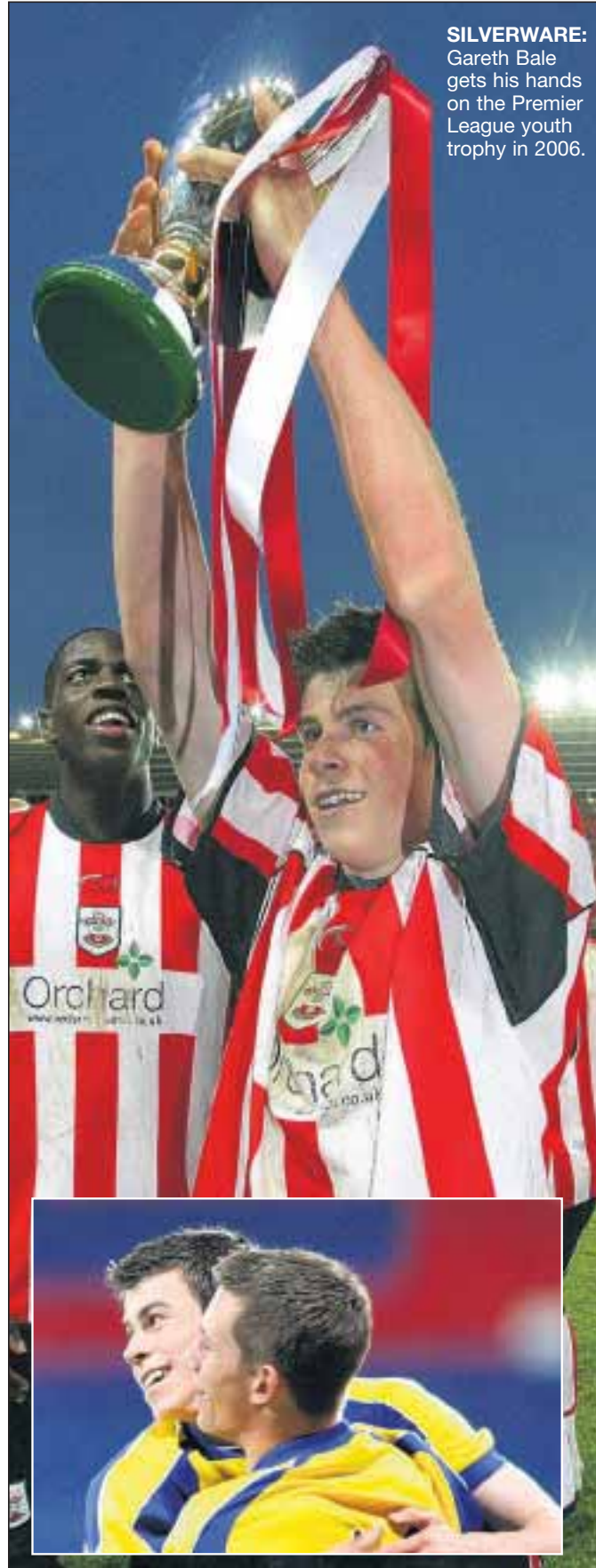
Lee Boyle: Fanad United

Jonathan Hogg: Huddersfield Town

Danny Earls: Rochester Rhinos in the USL Pro

Tobias Mikaelsson: Oddevold

Zoltan Steiber: SPVGG Greuther Furth.



SILVERWARE:

Gareth Bale gets his hands on the Premier League youth trophy in 2006.

AFTER Gareth Bale finally signed on the dotted line to confirm his move from Tottenham to Real Madrid, the Sports Pink takes a look at other British players who made the move to the Santiago Bernabeu during their careers.

LAURIE CUNNINGHAM (1979-83)

When he joined Real Madrid from West Brom, Cunningham created history by becoming the first British footballer in the club's history. In his first season at the Bernabeu, he helped them to a league and cup double but his stellar performances were not deemed enough to earn him a call-up to England squad for the European Championships in 1980.

STEVE McMANAMAN (1999-2003)

After making over 300 appearances for Liverpool, McManaman opted to make the switch to Real in the summer of 1999. During his time at the Spanish club he became one of the most decorated English footballers to play abroad as he won two Champions League titles and two La Liga crowns over four years.

DAVID BECKHAM (2003-07)

Beckham made the move to Spain after his relationship with his former manager at Manchester United, Sir Alex Ferguson, infamously deteriorated during the 2002-03 season. In his first season there, he flourished in a three-man midfield alongside Zidane and Figo. Nevertheless, despite winning the Spanish Supercup, more success did not follow and once Fabio Capello took charge in 2006, he fell out of favour at the club.

MICHAEL OWEN (2004-05)

Following Gerard Houllier's sacking from Liverpool in 2004, speculation emerged about Owen's long-term future at the club. Despite finishing fourth the previous season, he joined Real Madrid for £8million. Owen scored 18 goals in 41 games but 26 of those appearances were as a substitute and his time at the Bernabeu would come to an end after only one year.

JONATHAN WOODGATE (2004-07)

Despite the defender being injured at the time, Real Madrid stumped up £13.4million to bring Woodgate to the Bernabeu. This move came as a surprise to most due to the centre-back's injury concerns and he did not make an appearance in his first season. When he did make his debut against Athletic Bilbao in 2005, he scored an own goal and was later sent off for two bookable offences.

Record history

From facing page

books, during which they were relegated from and promoted back to the Primera Division.

£32million - Christian Vieri (Lazio to Inter Milan, 1999): Italy striker Vieri was at Inter for six seasons after they forked out £32million for him and he delivered a fairly handsome goal return - but the Coppa Italia was the only trophy they won in that period.

£46million - Zinedine Zidane (Juventus to Real Madrid, 2001): With his move from Italy to Spain, France midfielder Zidane became the first player to break the £40million barrier at the height of the 'Galaticos' era at Real Madrid.

£56million - Kaka (AC Milan to Real Madrid, 2009): The £50million barrier was broken for the first time when Real pushed the boat out to bring the Brazil playmaker from Italy.

£80million - Cristiano Ronaldo (Manchester United to Real Madrid, 2009): Breaking the world transfer record yet again and just days after a deal for Kaka had set new ground, Real again raised the bar considerably by paying out £80million for Ronaldo. In four seasons since then, the Portugal attacker has scored goals for the Spanish side at an astonishing rate.

DIFFERENT PATHS: Gareth Bale and Josh Dutton-Black celebrate a Saints Youth Cup goal in 2006. Bale is now at Real Madrid while Dutton-Black is turning out for Oxfordshire non league outfit North Leigh.

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CHERRIES FIXTURES

AUGUST

Sat 3	Charlton (H)W 2-1
Grabban 2		
Tues 6	P'mouth LC1 (H)	..W 1-0
O'Kane		
Sat 10	Watford (A)	.....L 1-6
Grabban		
Sat 17	Wigan (H)	.....W 1-0
Grabban		
Sat 24	Huddersfield (A)	...L 1-5
Pugh		
Wed 28	Watford (LC2) (A)	...L 0-2
Sat 31	Doncaster (A)	.....W 1-0
Pitman		

SEPTEMBER

Sat 14	Blackpool	.....(H)
Tue 17	Barnsley	.....(H)
Sat 21	Middlesbrough	.....(A)
Sat 28	Blackburn	.....(H)

OCTOBER

Tues 1	Leeds	.....(A)
Sat 5	Millwall	.....(H)
Sat 19	Notts Forest	.....(A)
Sat 26	Leicester	.....(A)

NOVEMBER

Sat 2	Bolton	.....(H)
Sat 9	Burnley	.....(A)
Sat 23	Derby	.....(H)
Sat 30	Brighton	.....(A)

DECEMBER

Tues 3	QPR	.....(A)
Sat 7	Reading	.....(A)
Sat 14	Birmingham	.....(H)
Sat 21	Sheff Wed	.....(A)
Thur 26	Yeovil	.....(H)
Sun 29	Ipswich	.....(A)

JANUARY

Wed 1	Brighton	.....(A)
Sat 11	Wigan	.....(A)
Sat 18	Watford	.....(H)
Sat 25	Charlton	.....(A)
Tues 28	Huddersfield	.....(H)

FEBRUARY

Sat 1	Leicester	.....(H)
Sat 8	Bolton	.....(A)
Sat 15	Burnley	.....(H)
Sat 22	Derby	.....(A)

MARCH

Sat 1	Doncaster	.....(H)
Sat 8	Blackpool	.....(A)
Wed 12	Blackburn	.....(A)
Sat 15	Middlesbrough	.....(H)
Sat 22	Barnsley	.....(A)
Tues 25	Leeds	.....(H)
Sat 29	Birmingham	.....(A)

APRIL

Sat 5	QPR (H)	
Tues 8	Reading	.....(H)
Sat 12	Yeovil	.....(A)
Fri 18	Sheff Wed(H)
Mon 21	Ipswich(A)
Sat 26	Notts Forest(H)

MAY

Sat 3	Millwall(A)
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Eddie Mitchell quits as Cherries chairman

HE arrived with the club on its knees and leaves with it standing tall.

Eddie Mitchell's four-year tenure as Cherries chairman has been highly eventful and hugely successful.

Often outspoken and sometimes controversial, Mitchell will ultimately be remembered as the man who brought back the glory days to Dean Court.

Asked to come aboard by Adam Murry in June 2009, Mitchell helped steady the ship after Cherries had pulled off the Greatest Escape.

In the space of four years, he hauled the club from the depths of League Two to the upper reaches of the Championship.

He achieved what the majority of supporters had felt would be a mission impossible, breathing new life into a club which had been left for dead.

In an exclusive interview with the Bournemouth Echo this week, Mitchell said: "When I first arrived, I wasn't surprised by some of the attitudes towards the club because I don't think it was in a very good place and hadn't been for a considerable period of time.

"There was no direction or leadership and it didn't have particularly good qualities because nobody had kept it in line.

"It had been wandering for many years.

"If there is a boat in the sea, it needs steering. If it wanders, it gets nowhere.

"It has been my nature all my life to get hold of something and sort it out. It was natural to me.

"The only hardship was taking my eye of the ball with my own much larger business but that is what football does.

"It hypnotises you and pulls you in. It certainly did that with me.

"The club didn't have people behind it and there were also people that wanted it to fail.

"What has been achieved over the past four years has been a triumph for the supporters and a defeat for those who wanted it to fail.

"It took a while to get the club into that frame of mind and for people to have that self belief.

"The symbol on our badge is of somebody holding their head – I think the club can do that now."

Mitchell's legacy will also include persuading Maxim Demin to invest in the club, the pair joining forces in October 2011.

Together, they have taken Cherries to a new level, both on and off the pitch.

"I am leaving the club in the hands of a family man which is good," said Mitchell.

"It is not as if someone has bought it as a toy.

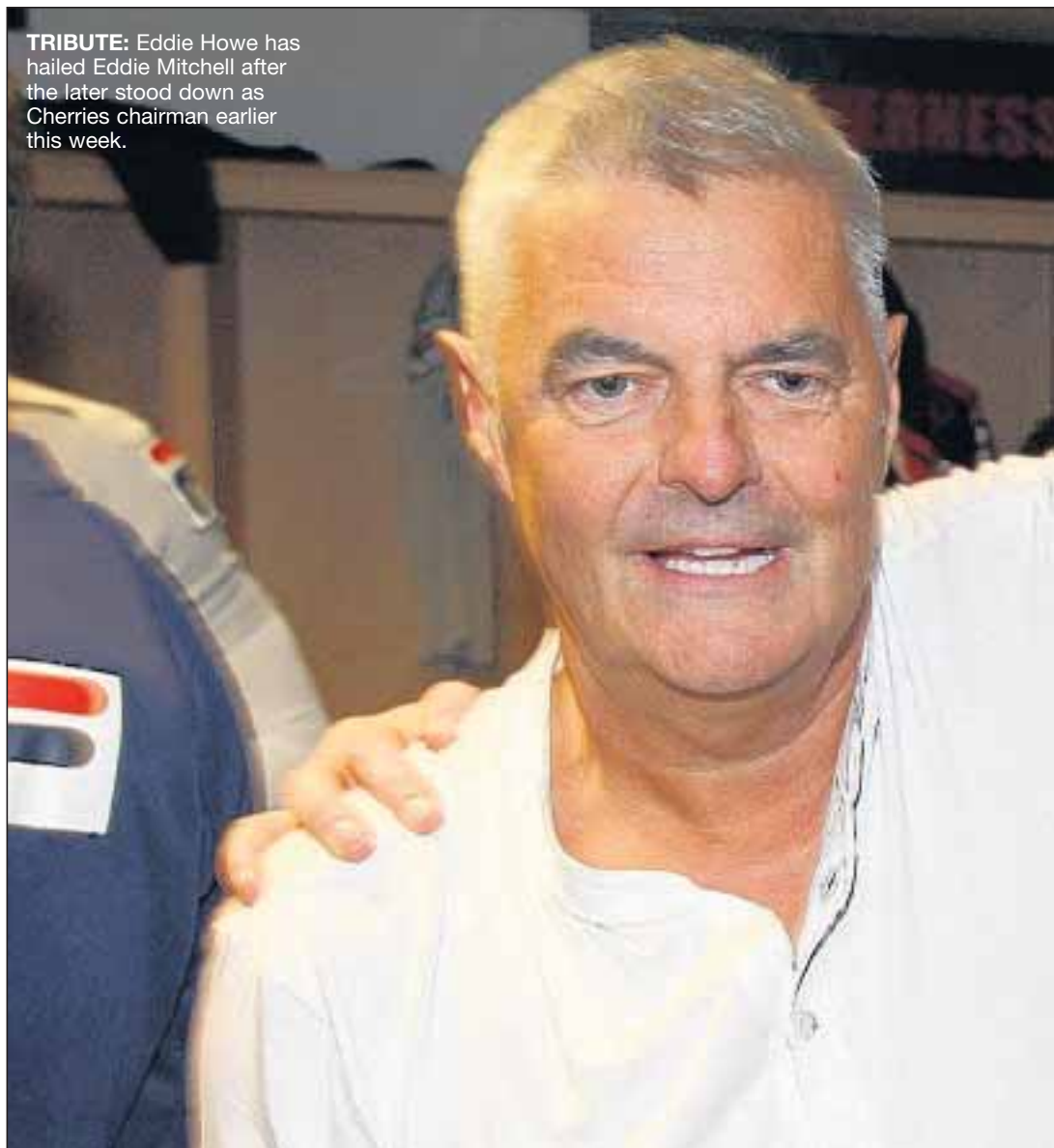
"Max is fanatical about football and probably knows a lot more than me about the game.

"I am leaving it with a man who is hungry for success and someone who has the capability to give the club a fantastic future.

"If the supporters stay behind the owner, the club will be playing at a high level for a long time to come and will really find its fortunes.

"Max has good values and the club is in good hands."

TRIBUTE: Eddie Howe has hailed Eddie Mitchell after the later stood down as Cherries chairman earlier this week.



EDDIE LEAVES HIGH AFTER 4

Mitchell, who has also courted controversy during his reign, added: "I wouldn't want to change one second of my time at the club from good to bad.

"It has taught me so much about myself and about people. When you are in a small business environment, you mix with the same sort of people and don't mix with the general public.

"The experience of mixing with the

general public and trying to get them on my side has been a great eye-opener for me.

"I have dealt with supporters who are out of work and some of the richest people in the country. It has given me a great opportunity.

"It has been a great journey and I am moving on at the right time to let the club continue its progress.

"Unless you can live longer than the club, and nobody can, the club is

always going to be bigger."

Cherries manager Eddie Howe believes Mitchell's drive and vision helped lead to a "real innovation" at the club.

Howe worked under Mitchell's chairmanship during his two spells in the hot-seat, the pair both playing a pivotal part in putting the club on the road to success.

Mitchell gained a controlling interest in the club in June 2009 – just

HAMPSHIRE'S 1973 CRICKET STARS REUNITED - SEE PAGES 32/43

- special feature



WITH HEAD GREAT YEARS

weeks after Howe had performed a footballing miracle by preserving Cherries' Football League status.

Then, against a backdrop of financial uncertainty, Howe overcame the odds by leading them to promotion from League Two in Mitchell's first year at the helm.

Howe left Cherries in third place in League One when he moved to Burnley in January 2011 before returning last season to steer them

from the relegation zone into the Championship.

And while the management and players have deservedly taken the credit for Cherries' on-pitch achievements, Howe has always been quick to praise the crucial roles played by Mitchell and Demin.

Howe said: "I was surprised at his decision, as everyone else was.

"Eddie deserves huge credit for the job he has done and for how far the

club has progressed under his stewardship. Together with Max, they have transformed it.

"Eddie is a very driven man and passionate about the football club. That has shown through with all his decisions and how hard he has worked.

"The most important thing for the leader of a football club is the infrastructure and that has been the biggest change."



FLASHPOINT: Eddie Mitchell is surrounded by security after talking to protesting Cherries fans outside Dean Court in September 2012.

Why Mitchell will always be the Cherries' own Marmite Man ...

EDDIE Mitchell was Cherries' very own Marmite Man, writes NEIL MEL-DRUM.

While much of the club's now far healthier supporter base stuck by him through radio rants, on-pitch altercations, dressing room invasions and fans' forum faux pas, a large number remained scarred by his public relations disasters and a fair degree of pre-empted and unfounded opinion related to his other businesses.

When he appeared on Piers Morgan's '...On Sandbanks' programme in 2008, the former Daily Mirror editor described Mitchell as Dorset's answer to George Clooney.

Five years on, bringing a football club back from the brink has taken its toll, although the glint in Mitchell's eye remains.

Regardless of personal feeling, no Cherries supporter should question Mitchell's impact on their beloved club.

As well as being the driving force behind stadium improvements, bringing back Eddie Howe and spearheading the club's push towards Championship football, Mitchell was also the reason Maxim Demin came on board.

It should also be noted that Mitchell turned away the advances of Convers Group, the consortium which, having found their bid to buy Cherries given short shrift by Mitchell, jumped in the car and cruised along the M27 to purchase Portsmouth.

Look what happened there.

He had his low points, of course. His radio interview with the BBC's Mark Chapman was an embarrassment.

His on-pitch approach to the North Stand following a 3-0 defeat by Chesterfield in 2011 gained more unwanted headlines.

His banning of the Echo six months later was ill-advised and caused more harm than the good he probably intended.

He appointed Paul Groves, a disaster, but he did so through loyalty – a trait that should not be mocked.

He then realised his mistake and, along with Demin, pushed the proverbial boat out to bring back the one thing he knew would re-ignite the goodwill factor: Eddie Howe.

That is his greatest achievement among dozens of notable successes.

Mitchell, more philosophical and thoughtful than the brash building company boss many believe him to be, would say you never stop learning in life.

At the age of 59, Mitchell would have learned more about himself over the past four years than in his previous 55.

He leaves the club in a stratospherically better position than when he arrived.

He has done everything he set out to do.

He can leave with his head held high.



CELEBRATION TIME: Eddie Mitchell, second left, celebrates after Cherries had won promotion from League 2 in 2010.

Simon Carter

simon.carter@dailyecho.co.uk

SPORTS EDITOR



BACK in the 1980s, Italy's Serie A was the place to be.

It was the Italian giants – Juventus, Inter and AC Milan, Sampdoria – who hovered up some of Britain's top talents.

When Graeme Souness left Liverpool in 1984 at the height of his career, having just led the Reds to another European Cup victory, where did he go? Italy.

There he came across his former Scottish international colleague Joe Jordan, who had joined AC Milan in 1981.

When Ian Rush also left Liverpool three years later, at a time when he was one of the most feared forwards in world football, where did he go? Italy.

England internationals such as Ray Wilkins, Trevor Francis, Gordon Cowans, Mark Hateley and Luther Blissett all headed for Serie A too.

Blissett, who a few years earlier had been playing in the fourth division, famously commented on stepping out at the San Siro after signing for Milan – 'blimey, it's a bit different to Watford – where's the dog track round the pitch?'

A few years later, in the early 1990s, Paul Gascoigne and David Platt – two of England's stars of Italia 90 – joined the exodus as well.

Around that time, the mid 1980s through to the early 1990s, it was mainly one-way traffic.

Not many top players from Serie A wanted to earn a living in the English First Division.

With English clubs banned from European competitions in the wake of the May 1985 Heysel tragedy, you couldn't blame them for staying away.

Where was the fun in turning up at Plough Lane to face Wimbledon in front of a crowd of under 6,000, when there was no European carrot for anyone – not even the champions.

Now, though, it is a different story.

Serie A is having trouble holding on to some of their top names.

The last two seasons' top scorers – Zlatan Ibrahimovic and Edinson Cavani – were both lured away by Paris St Germain.

Steven Jovetic, Fiorentina's leading scorer last season, became one of many big money arrivals at Manchester City.

Roma's Erik Lamela has joined Tottenham for around £25m.

And, most amazingly of all, current Italian international striker Dani Osvaldo – Lamela's former Roma colleague – joined Saints as the club's £15m record signing.

In an instant, Saints paid more money for one player than the club's entire income for the financial year 2009/10 – which was in the club accounts as £14.28m for the first season in League 1 after the Markus Liebherr-backed turnover.

It is not the most eye-popping move involving a Hampshire club and a Serie A side.

That remains AC Milan's £1m swoop in the summer of 1984 for Portsmouth striker Hateley, a youngster who had never even played in the old First Division when he won a dream move to Italy seemingly on the back of scoring for England in a memorable 2-0 friendly win in Brazil a few weeks earlier.

Still, to fully grasp how remarkable the Osvaldo transfer is, we need to put it in context.

Just three years ago Saints were a third division club, losing 2-0 at home to Rochdale in the wake of controversially sacking Alan Pardew.

Now, 150 or so weeks later, the club can field a £15m striker signed from the side that finished



OSVALDO SWITCH IS REAL SIGN OF THE TIMES FOR ITALY



NEW CHALLENGES: Former Roma pair Dani Osvaldo, above, and Eric Lamela, left, are now

seventh in Italy's top flight last season.

Saints, if they so desired, could play Osvaldo alongside two players who cost around £12m – Gaston Ramirez and Victor Wanyama.

That's £12m EACH, of course. Not combined.

This time four years ago Saints were signing players from fellow third division clubs – Rickie Lambert, Dean Hammond – or players that didn't even have a club (David Connolly and Radhi Jaidi).

Now they are raiding Roma and Glasgow Celtic for their better players.

Lots of questions are being posed, and they are not easy ones to answer.

What exactly does Osvaldo's signing show?

After all, he has left a club that almost finished in the top six in Serie A to one that finished 14th in the Premier League.

He has left a club that averaged over 40,000 for home league games in 2012/13 – around 10,000 more than Saints.

In terms of winning trophies and playing in European club competitions, surely he would have been better off staying in the Italian capital?

But, then again, we do not know just how persuasive Mauricio Pochettino and Nicola Cortese were in trying to land the player.

Osvaldo obviously knows Pochettino, as the pair worked together at Espanyol a few years

ago.

The manager would no doubt have given Osvaldo the hard sell, talked up Saints as a European possibility.

Corstese would have done likewise, and thrown in an attractive financial package as well.

Back in 2004, James Beattie and Antti Niemi were Saints' top earners in the Premier League.

Both of them were earning less than £20,000 a week.

The likes of Osvaldo and Ramirez will be earning considerably more.

Saints can afford it, though, as they can afford to pay the sort of transfer fees that would have been unthinkable just a few years ago.

The new television deal, regarding the lucrative overseas markets, will give each Premier



in the Premier League.

League club an extra £25m this season.

There you go, that's the fees for Osvaldo and Lovren taken care of in one new financial windfall.

That's before you even start to factor in the £43.8m Saints banked from last season's Premier League season.

Included in that figure was the £18.9m paid to every club for the overseas TV rights, and the £13.8m paid to every club from the domestic TV rights deal.

Manchester United topped the finance table with just over £60m, including more finishing position prize money for winning the title.

This season, even the club which finishes bottom will earn more than the champions did last season.

It is that sort of financial muscle which has helped clubs like Saints shatter their transfer records this summer.

They are by no means the only ones – Swansea and Cardiff both spending over £10m on one player.

The chance to play in the English top flight is, compared to the days of the mid 1980s, now seen as a very attractive option.

All seater stadia, usually filled to somewhere near capacity, playing against some of the top clubs in Europe and against some of the best players in the world.

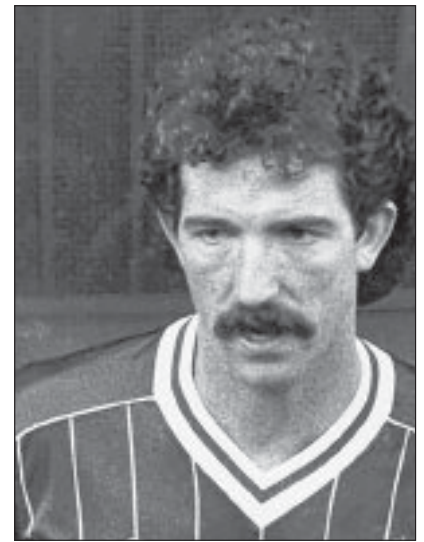
And the chance to make a name for himself outside his comfort zone, in an unfamiliar country but in the goldfish bowl of glamour and glitz and under the gaze of a global media's eye.

For a footballer hungry to take on a new challenge, surely the question shouldn't be 'why did Dani Osvaldo sign for Saints?'

More like, 'why didn't he sign a few weeks earlier?'



JOE JORDAN: The Scottish striker played for AC Milan (1981-1983) and Verona (1983-1984) prior to joining Saints.



GRAEME SOUNESS: The future Saints boss played for Sampdoria between 1984-1986 prior to taking over as Glasgow Rangers manager



LUTHER BLISSETT: After finishing as the First Division's top scorer for Watford in 1982/83, Blissett spent the following season at AC Milan.



IAN RUSH: The legendary Liverpool striker spent one unhappy season at Juventus in 1987-1988, prior to returning to Anfield.



TREVOR FRANCIS: Britain's first £1m player appeared for Sampdoria (1982-1986) and Atalanta (1986-1987).



MARK HATELEY: After scoring for England in Brazil, the Pompey striker spent three years at AC Milan (84-87).

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City of Southampton Sunday League football

Charlie is a darling ...

Junior Division 4

Charlie Hinge struck a hat-trick as Roll Call defeated Shelfside 5-1 in the City of Southampton League.

Shaun Davey and Hayden Davey also netted, with David Rivers equalising.

Sherfield English Reserves secured a 5-3 win over Hedge End Rangers thanks to Ashley McGimpsey, Phil Leigh, Ben Unsworth (2) and Jack Solloway.

Hedge End replied through Sammy Coleman, Matthew Hawkes and Jordan Breen.

AFC Gulf Western scraped past Itchen Saints 2-1 through a Sam Webb double. Thom King replied.

Eastpoint drew 1-1 with Durley at home. Dan Hellings gifted the away side the lead but Jamie Brennan levelled in the second half.

Junior Division 5

Josh Laney (2), Warrick Hyde and Wayne Bevan scored as Cherbourg defeated Itchen Albion 4-1. Nick England replied.

Portside won 3-2 against Test Valley Spartans with Reece Donovan (2) and Dave Fitzpatrick scoring. Tom Reed twice replied.

Andy Clark and Jamie Meredith gave Park a 2-1 victory against Burridge AFC. Andy Powell replied.

Junior Division 7

New Bridge scored four second half goals to secure a 4-0 win over Testwood Tornadoes.

Bitterne Ducks won 3-0 against Riverside Park Rangers with Michael Thomas netting a brace. Chris Pye also scored.

Phil Bryan hit a hat-trick as Fawley RBL romped to an impressive 5-2 win over Mottisfont. James Willis scored twice.

TWO GOALS: Sam Webb.



Hat-trick of hat-trick men

AFC Anchor boasted three hat-trick heroes in the opening round of games in the Southampton and District Sunday Football League.

Jon Ellard, Billy Hunt and Danny Smith all bagged three goals as AFC Anchor romped to a 13-2 victory at Chamberlayne Athletic in Division 2.

Gareth Springer scored twice with Neil Dennis and Daniel Rielly also on target. Danny Gilbert twice replied.

AFC West End savaged Holbury United 9-1 with Connor

Doswell and Gareth Snelling scoring hat-tricks.

James Hill, Craig Harding and Tom Miller also netted with James Penney replying.

Otter beat Trants 2-1 thanks to goals from Sam Ashton and Trevor Woodvine, Daniel Petley replying.

In Division 1, AFC Allbrook thrashed Foresters with goals from Matt Freemantle (2), Dave Reading (2) and Mike Tickner.

Matt Burt cracked a hat-trick as Roll Call beat Sholing United 3-1.

GOALDEN START FOR TOP FLIGHT

THE Southampton Sunday league Senior division kicked off in style with 19 goals in just three games.

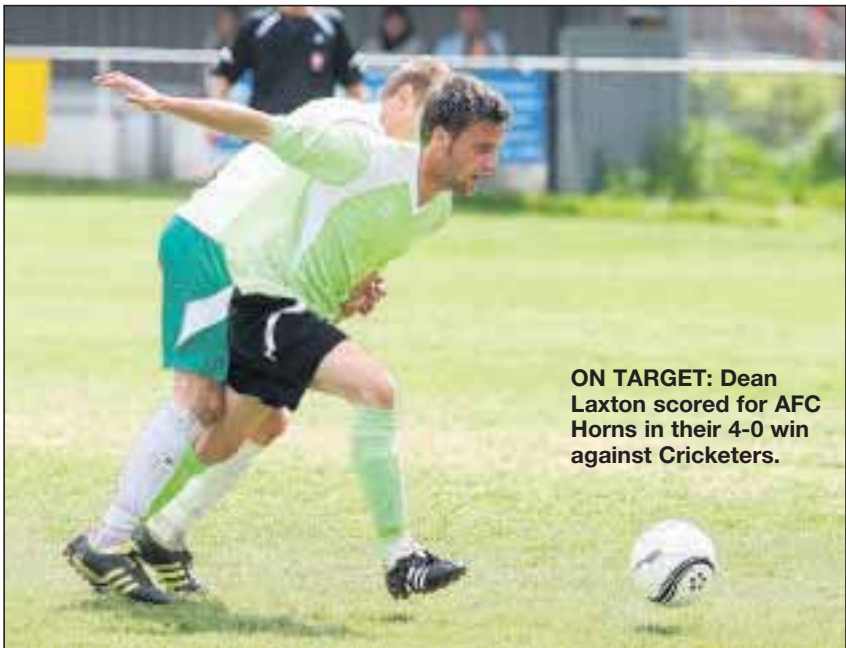
The stand-out match was a 4-4 draw between Eastbrook Harriers and Sherfield English, where Nathan Bailey (3) and Mitchell Dovey scored for the latter, *writes PETER HOWARD.*

Charlie Sandford bagged a brace for Eastbrook with Freddie Atterbury and Steve Potter also netting.

Cricketers Arms had a torrid start as they were smashed 4-0 by AFC Horns at home, Luke Maurin, Luke Jewell, Scott O'Dell and Dean Laxton scoring.

Yacht Tavern defeated Bush Hill & Newton Heath 1977 4-3 with Jamie Moorman (2), Mike Bessant and Jake Bessant netting.

An Ashley Baddams penalty, Wade Wilson and Gary Gotts replied.



ON TARGET: Dean Laxton scored for AFC Horns in their 4-0 win against Cricketers.

Junior Division 1

AFC Bursledon, Obelisk and Chartwell Green handed out thrashings.

Bursledon's hat-trick hero Lewis Crook helped his side to a 5-1 obliteration of AV Chivas, Sam White and Ade Barrett also scoring.

James Roberts was another trio hero as Obelisk saw off AFC Riverside 5-0, Lee Ryves adding a double.

Chartwell Green trounced Sky Blues 4-0 thanks to goals from Gary Klepp (2), Richie Warner and Richie Mannion.

Glen and HSC Southern Stars played out a goalless draw.

Junior Division 2

RS Ocean Village battered Fleming Sports 5-0 with goals from Dan Sanders (4) and Paul Clark.

In an exciting 3-3 draw, Lokomotiv Eastleigh's Matt Henriet, Steve Horton and Louis Baldacchino all scored. Ayham Al-Muhammed (2) and Nick Green replied.

Junior Division 3

Bridge AFC Reserves caned AFC Velmore 5-1 with goals from Wayne O'Dell (2), Shaun Casey (2) and James

Shirley. Ashley Hibberd replied.

Titans beat King George 4-0 with James Keyte, Sam Keyte, Sam Martin and Piriyanranjan Pusparas on target.

Andy Mantle, Nick Skolsky and James King netted for Langward Rovers as they beat AFC Bishopstoke 3-1. Anthony Pendlebury replied.

Junior Division 4

Curbridge's Liam Slade scored four as his side won 5-2 against Athletico Totton. Glenn Littleboy got

Curbridge's other goal as Dave Wood bagged a brace for Totton.

AFC Southbrook beat Unity 5-1 with goals from Mark Christopher (2), Adam Hallwood, Pete Burgess and Ryan Kajko. Naseer Brora replied.

Sporting Compass beat JSC 2-1, Stu McCloskey and Michael Anthony scoring either side of a Jack Marshall reply.

AFC Phoenix and AFC Bishopstoke Reserves drew 2-2. Mike Knott and Shane Grist scored for Phoenix with Nathan Alexander and Chris Miller replying.



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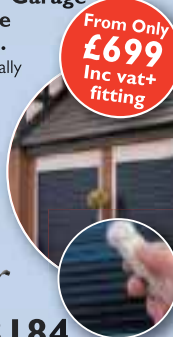
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Hampshire Cricket Spotlight



QUOTES OF THE WEEK

"Transfers are a robbery - when I was playing every time I had finished a contract I was free to go wherever I went. It's an opportunity for a lot of people to make a lot of money. Today a player is more a product than a footballer with a whole pile of people trying to get commissions" - **UEFA president Michel Platini hits out at the fees paid for players.**

"Our club is different, our club is special, it's based on sentiment. Our objective as a club is not to make money through our players, but to have the best performances possible" - **Athletic Bilbao president Josu Urrutia reinforces the Basque-only club's mentality after rejecting Manchester United's bid for midfielder Ander Herrera.**

"At Chelsea (in his first spell), I played two or three times with 10 men against Barcelona. I went to Inter and played a Champions League semi-final, one hour, with 10 men against Barcelona. I go to Real Madrid, I played again a Champions League semi-final with 10 men. I came back to Chelsea and played a Super Cup final with 10 men again.



Go to analyse the actions and make your conclusions. I'm unlucky. Just that." - **Jose Mourinho is not saying there is a conspiracy against him. Or is he?**

"Our leader (John O'Shea) didn't react in the way he should. That is terrible because it was a crucial game for us. The penalty didn't come from a dangerous situation. It's absolutely poor and not acceptable. It was difficult to see this goal at this level. John O'Shea did something really wrong but he is an experienced footballer. (I'm disappointed) with John O'Shea, but with a few players and there is not the right desire. That was a very important game for us. I cannot change the heart of my players" - **Sunderland manager Paolo Di Canio does not hold back after his team's 3-1 Premier League defeat at Crystal Palace.**

"I'm not impressed by the paucity of thought and research that has gone into this debate. I saw a TV programme the other day talking about there being 240 English players in the Premier League.



In that case, they must be including a lot of players I have never heard of. I would defy anyone to come up with 240 names. I can't name that many. I don't think, quite frankly, you'd be able to come up with 30 or 40. It's just the headline-making 'We're no good in England, we don't produce players'. What about the number of players who are rated unbelievably highly and would be first-team starters at most Premier League clubs, but their path is blocked because they are at one of the top four or five?" - **England boss Roy Hodgson is sick of hearing the argument that England no longer produces top-quality footballers.**

THE INVINCIBLES

Captain brings his winners together

Simon Walter

simon.walter@dailyecho.co.uk

CRICKET REPORTER



THE last Hampshire side to win the County Championship were reunited at The Ageas Bowl this week, to celebrate the 40th anniversary of their 1973 success.

Twelve of the 13 players involved in Hampshire's second Championship title - achieved as an unbeaten team - were there, following an invitation several months earlier from their captain, Richard Gilliat.

They came from as far as South Africa (Barry Richards), West Indies (Gordon Greenidge) and New Zealand (David O'Sullivan). Only Trevor Jesty was unable to attend, due to umpiring commitments.

Following speeches from Gilliat and Mark Nicholas, chairman Rod Bransgrove awarded them all commemorative county caps to mark the occasion.

This is Hampshire's Class of 1973 ...

BARRY RICHARDS

IT is fitting that Northamptonshire are the opposition as Barry Richards looks out on The Ageas Bowl during the celebrations marking the 40th anniversary of Hampshire's last County Championship triumph.

For it was against Northants that Richards played two of his greatest innings for the county at the same stage of the 1973 season.

Richards did not make a fifty in the match but his first-innings 45 and unbeaten 37, on a turning wicket against an attack including the great Indian slow left-armers Bishen Bedi, gave Hampshire a seven-wicket win in front of a big Northlands Road crowd that all but secured the title.

Restricted to four Tests for South Africa because of apartheid, the opportunity to bat against world-class bowlers like Bedi usually brought out the best in Richards during his ten years with Hampshire.

"The track turned quite a bit and Bishen at the time was the premier left-arm spinner in the world so it was



a great challenge," he recalls.

"It was never going to be easy to get the runs in what was a low-scoring game, so to do so was very satisfying personally and for the side."

Richard Gilliat, Hampshire's captain in 1973, is effusive as he recalls a contest not dissimilar in quality to that between Hampshire's Shane Warne and Kent's Rahul Dravid at Portsmouth in 2000.

"It was an intriguing tussle, a fascinating duel, a masterclass in bowling and batting," he said.

"In the end, Barry won us what was a key match."

Richards also scored four hundreds that year, including 240 against Warwickshire at Coventry, and clearly remembers the season with fond-

HAVE YOU GOT ANY GREAT HAMPSHIRE MEMORIES FROM 1973?

Hampshire Cricket Spotlight

REUNITED AGAIN



FLASHBACK:
Hampshire's 1973
side pose after win-
ning the title.

CLASS OF 1973: Hampshire's County Championship winning side at the Ageas Bowl this week. From left to right: Mike Taylor, Peter Sainsbury, Bob Stephenson, Bob Herman, Richard Gilliat (captain), Barry Richards, Andy Murtagh, Richard Lewis, David Turner, Tom Mottram, Gordon Greenidge, David O'Sullivan.

guys were asked to stand up at any given time they did just that."

1973 was the fourth season of Richards' fabled partnership with Greenidge.

"From a cricketing point of view it was the cementing of Gordon as a Test player," he says.

"I could tell Gordon was going to be a tremendous player during our first game together in 1970, against Warwickshire.

"I was the more senior player and I hope some of the things I did in those early stages helped him towards forging a great career and becoming a feared player around the world.

"In 1973 he really started to come to the fore in his own right and the team generally played well.

"When you play well you grow in confidence but what stands out to me was the catching, which was phenomenal.

"I'm not just talking about slip catching but generally all round the wicket.

"Very few catches were dropped. There were some tremendous, difficult catches taken at vital times and if you field well you're always going to do well."

Hampshire's under-rated new-ball partnership took 120 Championship wickets between them.

Their performances were a boon coming soon after the loss of Butch White, Bob Cottam and John Holder.

"It's fair to say that Tom Mottram and Lofty Herman weren't the most feared attack in the County Championship but they bowled well, stuck to a plan and kept the batsmen under pressure," continued Richards. "That and the good fielding made us difficult to beat."

At 28, Richards was at the peak of his powers in 1973.

It is a great tragedy that apartheid robbed him of the chance to play many Tests, but Hampshire were the beneficiaries of his misfortune.

Richards played for the county for another five years, scoring 15,607 first-class runs at 50.5.

"I was very grateful to Hampshire in the early stages and for all ten years, but on the other hand not being able to play Test cricket was very frustrating," he admits.

"Any kid that ever plays the game wants to play for their country and when that's taken away from you it does leave a big hole in your incentive to play.

"I probably gave up county cricket a little too early but the fact I couldn't play Test cricket was enormously frustrating."

Continued on page 34

QUOTES OF THE WEEK

"I don't want to disrespect Arsenal, because they are a fantastic club, but I don't see joining them as being a step forward for Luis" - **Liverpool captain Steven Gerrard says moving to Arsenal would be a sideways switch at best for Uruguay striker Luis Suarez.**

"I had a couple of great finishes (at Woburn) on the main Tour - the Junior Tour, as I now call it - so it's nice to come back here and finally win" - **Colin Montgomerie reacts to his first win on the European Senior Tour at the Travis Perkins plc Senior Masters.**

"I know many players talk of their desire to join the club of their boyhood dreams, but I can honestly say, this is my dream come true. I am well aware that I would not be at the level I am today were it not for firstly Southampton and then Spurs standing by me during some of the tougher times and affording me the environment and support they have" - **Gareth Bale reveals his dreams have come true after sealing his 100million euro (£86million) switch from Tottenham to Real Madrid.**



"Me especially, I wish him all the best and I hope he enjoys the occasion at Madrid. I'm thoroughly excited for him. I wish him the very best and I hope he can get me some tickets for El Clasicol!" - **Tottenham defender Danny Rose looks on the positive side after Gareth Bale joins Real Madrid.**

"I did try and watch a bit of the Twenty20s but the kids get the remote back pretty quickly and turn it off so that's not possible. I've been left watching Dora The Explorer and that sort of thing" - **England bowler James Anderson gives an insight into his life after the end of this summer's Ashes series.**

"I try to say my way as well. Sometimes I say, 'I can't feel the ball like you say'. She says: 'Do it like this and you will be okay. Just listen to me.' She's normally right. I will try to fight but in the end I give in" - **mimeing a clip round the head, tennis player Denis Istomin outlines his relationship with his coach - his mother.**

"Now I hope Kaka's orphans, the 12,000 or 15,000 fans that stopped coming to the stadium when he left, will come back now that Kaka's returned" - **AC Milan vice-president Adriano Galliani hopes the club's returning Brazilian star has a Pied Piper effect.**



"Where's your signings, Joe Kinnear?" - **Newcastle fans question their unpopular director of football after a quiet summer.**

"Absolutely delighted to be joining Cardiff City FC! Can't wait to hear the famous Cardiff fans roar! I promise GOALS!!!!" - **Peter Odemwingie's summer ends with a long drive on transfer deadline day and an excitable tweet. Sound familiar?**

EMAIL echosport@dailyecho.co.uk WITH YOUR ANECDOTES

Hampshire Cricket Spotlight



QUOTES OF THE WEEK

"I wouldn't mind putting him (Ronaldo) on his a**e, making a name for myself. I just want to play. I don't mind if I play against Luxembourg or against Portugal. I just want to get the shirt on" - Northern Ireland midfielder Michael O'Connor aims to put a dampener on Cristiano Ronaldo's spirits in Friday's World Cup qualifier against Portugal.

"It's not very nice to see. It's like something out of a horror film" - Theo Walcott gives his take on the deep cut on Wayne Rooney's head, suffered in training when he was accidentally kicked by Manchester United team-mate Phil Jones.



"There's nothing I would like more than to be helping the lads in the qualifiers. I'm sure people will see from these images the reason why I won't be able to play" - Rooney states his commitment to England after revealing a picture of the injury, above - which has forced him to miss World Cup qualifiers with Moldova and Ukraine - on his Facebook page.

"The two targets I have for the England team are - one, to at least reach the semi-finals of Euro 2020. Two, win the World Cup in 2022" - FA chairman Greg Dyke sets the bar high for England during his speech on the future of the game.

"I had about 10 seconds as a boxer. I got smacked in the face, threw the gloves away and went home to my mother crying. So I've got absolutely no advice to give to him. I've got to say, they are the bravest people in sport, these boxers" - Scotland manager Gordon Strachan reflects on his brief boxing career and opts against giving Ricky Burns, below left, any tips for his bout with Raymundo Beltran.



"Yeah, there's resentment of course. Is he (Gatland) on the Christmas card list? Unlikely" - Brian O'Driscoll still sore towards British and Irish Lions coach Warren Gatland following his omission from the decisive third Test against Australia earlier this summer.

"The part of the journey I'm going through is not nice but it is one I will relish and I will put it in my tool bag and carry it along with me on my hopefully long managerial career" - St Mirren boss Danny Lennon takes a typically unorthodox line on the pressure mounting on him.

From page 33

GORDON GREENIDGE

He was only 22, but little more than a year after playing a crucial role in Hampshire winning the County Championship, Gordon Greenidge began his 108-Test career with the West Indies.

Greenidge was Hampshire's leading run-scorer, with 1,620 runs at 52 apiece, in 1973.

At the time, it was comfortably his best season for the county.

"The runs were one thing but the manner and the speed with which they were scored was important as well," he says.

"It gave plenty of time for the bowlers to bowl teams out.

"People didn't expect us to bowl other teams out twice but we did it often.

"The bowling attack did an excellent job considering people didn't give us a chance.

"They were very under-rated, but they did the job.

"Playing for Hampshire that year has a special place in all our hearts."

Greenidge's opening partnership with Richards is synonymous with 1973.

When we meet, Hampshire's greatest double act is together once more.

"We played golf together a couple of years ago but before then we had not seen each other for several years," says Greenidge.

"Richard Gilliat told me about the reunion in June and I was going to be over here anyway, but I didn't expect so many people to be here.

"It's been nice to see so many players I played with as there are some who I haven't seen in 20-odd years, guys like Tom Mottram and David O'Sullivan, names from the past I haven't had the chance to catch up with till now."

DAVID TURNER

Along with Sean Ervine, the only Hampshire player to have won five trophies (three Sunday League titles and the Benson & Hedges Cup as well as the Championship).

The left-handed batsman played for the county for 24 years - longer than any other exclusively post-war player.

100 Hampshire CCC Greats says "he was not elegant in the manner of Gower, but he had a distinctive style of batting that was instantly recognisable. Below average height, he had strong wrists and forearms, which added punch to his shots, particularly on the off side."

'An awkward player,' was Mike Brearley's assessment, but "one who could get runs against top-class opposition."

RICHARD GILLIAT

As captain, it is difficult to overstate the role Gilliat played in leading the 66-1 outsiders to the 1973 County Championship.

"Our scorer that season, Peter White, was the only one who had enough faith to put a few bob on us!" laughs the 69-year-old, who reunited the team as adroitly as he united them 40 years ago.

"Usually only three or four of the team are able to come to the annual

Legendary pair recall 1973 title triumph



DAVID TURNER

players' reunion but this was organised well in advance," he explained.

"We pressurised a few and everyone came apart from Trevor Jesty, who unfortunately couldn't get away.

"Some of us haven't seen each other for 40 years and Tom Mottram is one I haven't seen since the last game of 1977.

"It was a bit of a coup to get him to come and I think he's enjoyed it."

Mottram's 57 wickets were a big factor in Hampshire's success.

"He bowled from a great height right and got extra bounce that a lot

of batsmen weren't used to - similar to Joel Garner," recalls Gilliat.

"I think opening batsmen rather fancied their chances against us, particularly early on in the season because Bob Herman hadn't been overly successful at Middlesex.

"But they both bowled well and we fielded absolutely brilliantly.

"Desmond Eagar had always insisted on top-class fielding and one-day cricket meant the days of fast bowlers sticking their foot out to stop the ball were starting to go.

"We had some outstanding close fielders in Richards, Greenidge and Sainsbury and some very young,

Hampshire Cricket Spotlight



TOGETHER AGAIN: Legends Gordon Greenidge and Barry Richards at The Ageas Bowl this week.

Did You Know?



BARRY RICHARDS

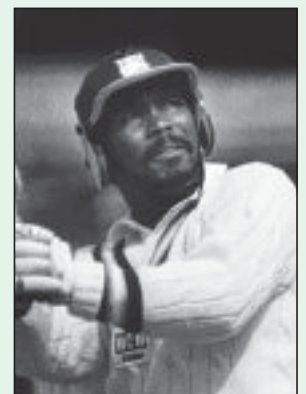
Only played four Tests for South Africa, but scored two hundreds and two half-centuries in seven innings for an average of 72.57.

Overall, he scored 28,358 first class runs at 54.74 with 80 centuries and 152 half-centuries.

Also scored 8,506 one day runs at 40.12 with 16 centuries and 50 half-centuries.

Made his Hampshire debut in 1968 and played for the county until the end of the 1978 season.

Was a *Wisden Cricketer of the Year* in 1969.



GORDON GREENIDGE

Scored 7,558 runs in 108 Tests for the West Indies at an average of 44.07.

He ended his first class career with 37,354 runs at 45.88 with 92 hundreds and 183 half centuries.

In addition, he scored 16,349 List A (one day) runs with 33 hundreds and 94 half-centuries.

Of those, Greenidge plundered 5,134 for the West Indies in 128 matches.

Made his Hampshire debut in 1970 and played for the county until the end of the 1987 season.

Was a *Wisden Cricketer of the Year* in 1977, the year after helping the West Indies crush Tony Greig's England.

athletic fielders in Turner, Lewis, Jesty and Murtagh."

Seven opening partnerships of 100 or more laid the foundation as Hampshire became the first side to finish a Championship season unbeaten.

"The main reason we did so well was happening to have the best opening batsmen in the world, but all the batsmen tended to score their runs quickly," says Gilliat, who contributed 755 at 29 himself.

"By scoring quickly, we had longer to bowl the opposition out twice and it was no mean feat to do that nine times with what, on

paper, was a very weak attack.

"Good fielding made them bowl better and they all came up trumps. There were some great individual performances but, overall, it was a team effort."

Two moments in the crucial win against Northants stand out for Gilliat.

Amazement

"We lost the toss - I only won seven that season! - and they batted first . . . Being very tall, Tom Mottram was not the best of fielders but when Roy Virgin hit the ball

back hard and low to his right he somehow caught it one handed, to everyone's amazement!

"In the second innings Tom was bowling to David Steele, an England batsman, who played a forward defensive that he couldn't believe he'd missed.

"After the ball went past his outside edge he held his ground . . . Bob Stephenson rolled the ball back onto his stumps and stumped him for two!"

A former deputy headmaster at Charterhouse School in Surrey, Gilliat thrived as captain.

"They were a very easy lot to han-

dle, fortunately," he smiles.

"It was hard work in those days, you travelled as a 12 plus the scorer with no manager or press officer so you had to be responsible."

Like Colin Ingleby-Mackenzie and his 1961 champions, Gilliat left his players to their own devices and thoroughly enjoyed the Hampshire captaincy.

"I was a reasonable bat who didn't bowl and if I hadn't been captain I think I'd have been bored.

"The captaincy was a bit like a game of chess, you were always thinking and I loved it.

Continued on page 35

DON'T MISS MIKE VIMPANY'S CLUB CRICKET ON PAGES 44/45

Hampshire Cricket Spotlight



Did You Know?

HAMPSHIRE all-rounder Peter Sainsbury was honoured by Wisden as a result of helping the county win the 1973 County Championship.

For the veteran was named the following spring as one of Wisden's five Cricketers of the Year.

Here, the Sports Pink looks at who else has been similarly honoured by the legendary Almanac since ...

1974: Keith Boyce, Bevan Congdon, Keith Fletcher, Roy Fredericks, Peter Sainsbury

1975: Dennis Amiss, Mike Denness, Norman Gifford, Tony Greig, Andy Roberts

1976: Ian Chappell, Peter Lee, Rick McCosker, David Steele, Bob Woolmer

1977: Mike Brearley, Gordon Greenidge, Michael Holding, Viv Richards, Bob Taylor

1978: Ian Botham, Mike Hendrick, Alan Jones, Ken McEwan, Bob Willis

1979: David Gower, John Lever, Chris Old, Clive Radley, John Shepherd

1980: Joel Garner, Sunil Gavaskar, Graham Gooch, Derek Randall, Brian Rose

1981: Kim Hughes, Robin Jackman, Allan Lamb, Clive Rice, Vintcent van der Bijl



CHRIS SMITH

1982: Terry Alderman, Allan Border, Richard Hadlee, Javed Miandad, Rod Marsh

1983: Imran Khan, Trevor Jesty, Alvin Kallicharran, Kapil Dev, Malcolm Marshall

1984: Mohinder Amarnath, Jeremy Coney, John Emburey, Mike Gatting, Chris Smith

1985: Martin Crowe, Larry Gomes, Geoff Humpage, Jack Simmons, Sidath Wettimuny

1986: Phil Bainbridge, Richard Ellison, Craig McDermott, Neal Radford, Tim Robinson

1987: John Childs, Graeme Hick, Dilip Vengsarkar, Courtney Walsh, James Whitaker

1988: Jonathan Agnew, Neil Foster, David Hughes, Peter Roebuck, Saleem Malik

1989: Kim Barnett, Jeff Dujon, Phil Neale, Franklyn Stephenson, Steve Waugh

Continued on facing page

'No boring draws' with Rich in charge

From page 35

"We were probably a better team in 1974 with Andy Roberts, unfortunately without David O'Sullivan, but were very unlucky to finish second to Worcestershire.

"We were beaten by the weather. "I had some wonderful years at Hampshire, and will always be grateful for the opportunity.

"But by 1978, after eight years in charge, it had started to become more of a job than game and I decided to pack up."

Gilliat lives in Cobham where he works for Reed's School as Admissions Registrar.

TREVOR JESTY

The great Hampshire all rounder was most effective with the ball in 1973, taking 35 wickets at 20 apiece and producing career-best performances on three occasions. In those days he was a bowler who could bat but the reverse would be true in later years (his 305 runs at 14.5 made this his least prolific season). He was only 25 and would be around for another 11 years. Jesty was unable to make the reunion as he was umpiring Surrey v Middlesex at The Oval.

PETER SAINSBURY

At 39, the vice captain was the oldest member of the team, and the only player involved to have also featured in the County Championship success of 1961.

His experience and all-round class was a significant factor in Hampshire's success.

He formed a great partnership with fellow slow left-armers David O'Sullivan, his 49 wickets at 17.9 apiece placing him second in the national averages.

Only four players scored more than his 721 runs that year.

They included one of Sains' seven Hampshire centuries, a vital one at that against Somerset at Taunton, where his unbeaten 120 helped Hampshire to post 262 having been 78-7 when he arrived at the crease.

One of the best all-rounders never to play for England, he would play another two seasons for his home county.

MIKE TAYLOR

His first full season with Hampshire after joining from Nottinghamshire could not have gone any better.

One of Hampshire's six ever-presenters that year, the medium pacer's 63 wickets at 19 apiece saw him finish as joint leading wicket-taker with Bob Herman.



WELL DONE: Richard Gilliat, above left, and Peter Sainsbury, right, congratulate Kent's Mike Denness on his England Test call-up in 1973.



ALL-ROUNDER: Trevor Jesty.

He also made several useful contributions with the bat, scoring 441 runs at 24.5.

They included 49 and an unbeaten 37 as Hampshire won at Bournemouth against his former county - who finished bottom of the table.

"[Winning the Championship] was something you never dreamt of, I just wanted to further my career and keep a regular place in the side," he recalled in *Hampshire CCC Entertain or Perish*, by Dave Allen. 'Tay' spent the rest of his working life with the county, retiring as Hampshire's marketing manager in 2002.

BOB STEPHENSON

His 65 dismissals put him level with David Bairstow of Yorkshire

as the most prolific wicketkeeper in the country that year.

He assessed Hampshire's seam attack in *Entertain or Perish*: "Bob Herman left the bat, Tom Mottram, high bounce and nipped it about off the seam - they all fancied him played shots and got out. To follow, Mike Taylor, very consistent, hit the seam and nipped it about, then 'Sains' - consistent Trevor Jesty away swingers - a team of good honest cricketers and a bit of variety."

Stephenson played football for Derby County, Shrewsbury and Rochdale (his dad George played for England) before signing for Hampshire in 1969. He later taught at Twyford School.

DAVID O'SULLIVAN

The New Zealand international ended his second and final season with Hampshire on a high, bowling the county to the Championship title, taking 37 of his 47 wickets during the last six matches - including 11-41 against Nottinghamshire at Bournemouth.

"The highlight of my career was playing for my country but not many New Zealanders have won the County Championship - I don't think anyone else has done other than Richard Hadlee with Notts and Glenn Turner with

Worcestershire," said the slow left-armers, who played 11 Tests.

"The amazing thing about 1973 is that we only used 13 players and, secondly, everyone's still alive!

"We were already going to be over at this time visiting London for my wife's 60th birthday, but I'd probably have come over especially for this anyway.

"I still see Barry Richards when he comes over to commentate in New Zealand and he always brings up the car incident, but it wasn't my fault.

"I was coming out of the old ground at Northlands Road and someone went into the side of me!"

BOB HERMAN

Born in Southampton, the son of Oswald 'Lofty' Herman (who took more than 1,000 wickets for Hampshire) was a revelation in his second season after signing from Middlesex, where he spent seven years without becoming a first team regular.

"The difference with Middlesex was noticeable, everyone wanted to play for one another and we got on so well," he said.

"Everyone chipped in, six of us took more than 300 wickets between us and everyone contributed runs.

"The fielding was fantastic for us

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Hampshire Cricket Spotlight



LOVELY BUBBLY: Hampshire's players celebrate their title success forty years ago.

bowlers and Richard was a brilliant captain, he always played the game the right way. There were no boring draws when he was in charge."

Herman junior went on to take 270 wickets at 25 apiece for Hampshire.

"My father was very proud when we won the Championship - it was something he never did!" said the 67 year-old, who is nearing retirement after several years working for B & Q in Park Gate.

TOM MOTTRAM

As well as being very effective with the ball, the tall Lancastrian was a Hampshire cult hero known as the Pink Panther, apparently due to his resemblance to the Seventies cartoon character.

"That's a misnomer!" he insists. "I was called Tex Panther by Barry Richards as a reference to an old Slazenger sweater I had, it was nothing to do with the Pink Panther," he smiles.

Mottram still lives in Winchester and made a special effort to be at Wednesday's reunion.

"It's really good to see everyone," he said before recalling his annus mirabilis.

"All the bowlers took wickets, every one of us finished with more

than 40, which was quite some going.

"We had bowlers for all situations. Bob swung it, I was a seamer with good lift off the wicket and we managed to get a lot of early wickets. Mike Taylor and Trevor Jesty were a terrific first-change pair.

"And when the wickets got drier David O'Sullivan really came into his own, he was a very high quality spin bowler.

"That was why we bowled so many sides out. We got the most win points, the most bowling points and the most batting bonus points so it was clearly a team effort.

"But one thing that's never mentioned is that in 1971 a few of us had also won the Second Eleven Championship and that stood us in good stead."

An Achilles injury prevented Mottram from playing in 1974 and he was mostly restricted to one-day games thereafter.

"I preferred the one-day game, sacrilege though that may be," smiles the 68 year-old, a talented architect who prefers to watch football these days.

"My big passions are architecture and soccer," said the former Everton trialist.

RICHARD LEWIS

"Lew was as good as most other openers in the country and had he moved he'd have been a regular," said Richard Gilliat.

"Midway through that season he made 98 against the West Indies and a lot of the spectators thought he was Barry Richards!

"He was a class player but unfortunately only had limited opportunities with us."

Winchester-born Lewis said: "I could have moved on somewhere but I was a Hampshire lad and in those days that meant a lot.

"We were the original Happy Hampshire, many of us lived in Chandlers Ford and were always round each other's houses."

Lewis has coached at Charterhouse School in Surrey for many years, and is planning his retirement to Taunton.

ANDY MURTAGH

Played in five matches and made important contributions in two of them, ensuring draws away to Sussex (he top scored with 47 at Hove, followed by an unbeaten 37) and against Glamorgan at Portsmouth.

The uncle of Middlesex seamer Tim Murtagh, he is a school master currently writing a book in collaboration with Barry Richards.



MIKE TAYLOR

Did You Know?

1990: Jimmy Cook, Dean Jones, Jack Russell, Robin Smith, Mark Taylor

1991: Mike Atherton, Mohammad Azharuddin, Alan Butcher, Desmond Haynes, Mark Waugh

1992: Curtly Ambrose, Phillip DeFreitas, Allan Donald, Richie Richardson, Waqar Younis

1993: Nigel Briers, Martyn Moxon, Ian Salisbury, Alec Stewart, Wasim Akram

1994: David Boon, Ian Healy, Merv Hughes, Shane Warne, Steve Watkins

1995: Brian Lara, Devon Malcolm, Tim Munton, Steve Rhodes, Kepler Wessels

1996: Dominic Cork, Aravinda de Silva, Angus Fraser, Anil Kumble, Dermot Reeve

1997: Sanath Jayasuriya, Mushtaq Ahmed, Saeed Anwar, Phil Simmons, Sachin Tendulkar

1998: Matthew Elliott, Stuart Law, Glenn McGrath, Matthew Maynard, Graham Thorpe

1999: Ian Austin, Darren Gough, Muttiah Muralitharan, Arjuna Ranatunga, Jonty Rhodes

2000: Chris Cairns, Rahul Dravid, Lance Klusener, Tom Moody, Saqlain Mushtaq

2001: Mark Alleyne, Martin Bicknell, Andrew Caddick, Justin Langer, Darren Lehmann

2002: Andy Flower, Adam Gilchrist, Jason Gillespie, V. V. S. Laxman, Damien Martyn

2003: Matthew Hayden, Adam Hoggard, Nasser Hussain, Shaun Pollock, Michael Vaughan

2004: Chris Adams, Andrew Flintoff, Ian Harvey, Gary Kirsten, Graeme Smith

2005: Ashley Giles, Steve Harmison, Robert Key, Andrew Strauss, Marcus Trescothick

2006: Matthew Hoggard, Simon Jones, Brett Lee, Kevin Pietersen, Ricky Ponting

2007: Paul Collingwood, Mahela Jayawardene, Mohammed Yousuf, Monty Panesar, Mark Ramprakash

2008: Ian Bell, Shivnarine Chanderpaul, Ottis Gibson, Zaheer Khan, Ryan Sidebottom

2009: James Anderson, Dale Benkenstein, Mark Boucher, Neil McKenzie, Claire Taylor

2010: Stuart Broad, Michael Clarke, Graham Onions, Matt Prior, Graeme Swann

2011: Tamim Iqbal, Eoin Morgan, Chris Read, Jonathan Trott

2012: Tim Bresnan, Alastair Cook, Glen Chapple, Alan Richardson, Kumar Sangakkara

2013: Nick Compton, Hashim Amla, Jacques Kallis, Dale Steyn, Marlon Samuels

CONTACT THE SPORTS PINK ON 02380 424515

Hampshire Cricket Spotlight



Did You Know?

GORDON Greenidge topped the County Championship runscorers chart in Hampshire's 1973 title-winning season.

The West Indian legend compiled 1,620 runs at 52.25.

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP 1973 MOST RUNS

	M	Inns	NO	Rns	HS	Av
CG Greenidge (Hants)	20	35	4	1620	196*	52.25
JA Jameson (Warwick)	20	34	2	1550	168	48.43
MJ Smith (Middlex)	20	35	4	1549	116	49.96
MJ Harris (North)	19	35	2	1407	201*	42.63
Younis Ahmed (Surrey)	20	32	6	1389	155*	53.42
MJ Procter (Glouce)	16	25	4	1351	152	64.33
BC Francis (Essex)	20	35	3	1333	188*	41.65
GA Greenidge (Sussex)	20	39	3	1296	110	36
Sadiq Mohammad (Gls)	19	32	2	1255	170	41.83
BA Richards (Hants)	16	27	2	1239	240	49.56
PJ Sharpe (Yorks)	20	36	4	1238	133	38.68
Majid Khan (Glam)	19	35	4	1234	120	39.8
DS Steele (North)	20	34	3	1213	129*	39.12
MH Page (Derby)	16	30	4	1200	96	46.15
JC Balderstone (Leics)	19	32	4	1186	105	42.35
A Jones (Glam)	20	38	2	1185	126*	32.91
BF Davidson (Leic)	16	26	3	1181	105	51.34
GW Johnson (Kent)	20	34	0	1175	130	34.55
B Wood (Lancs)	20	32	4	1129	155*	40.32
JA Ommrod (Worcs)	20	34	7	1110	204*	41.11

LANCASHIRE'S Peter Lee took the most wickets in the 1973 County Championship season – finishing just four short of a century.

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP 1973 MOST WICKETS

	Runs	Wkts	BB	Ave
PG Lee (Lancs)	1819	96	8-53	18.94
TW Cartwright (Som)	1350	88	7-37	15.34
BS Bedi (Northants)	1558	86	6-60	18.11
BM Brain (Worcs)	1528	84	6-32	18.19
RD Jackman (Surrey)	1668	82	7-36	20.34
JN Shepherd (Kent)	1770	78	6-127	22.69
FJ Titmus (Middlex)	1503	72	6-40	20.87
Intikhab Alam (Surrey)	1892	72	6-57	26.27
MA Nash (Glam)	1530	70	6-99	21.85
RMH Cottam (Nir)	1262	69	6-45	18.28
S Venkataraghavan (Dy)	2095	69	7-100	30.36
JJ Birkenshaw (Leic)	1610	65	7-65	24.76
AG Nicholson (Yorks)	1145	63	6-44	18.17
MNS Taylor (Hants)	1218	63	7-53	19.33
RE East (Essex)	1413	63	6-35	22.42
RS Herman (Hants)	1497	63	5-49	23.76
PI Pocock (Surrey)	1563	62	6-11	25.20
AS Brown (Glouce)	1231	59	7-37	20.86
M Hendrick (Derby)	1191	58	8-45	20.53
TJ Mottram (Hants)	1254	57	6-63	22.00

OPENERS Gordon Greenidge and Barry Richards were the two Hampshire batsmen to pass the 1,000 runs milestone in the 1973 Championship season.

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP 1973 - HAMPSHIRE BATTING

	M	Inn	NO	Rns	HS	Av
CG Greenidge	20	35	4	1620	196*	52.25
BA Richards	16	27	2	1239	240	49.56
DR Turner	20	34	1	911	98	27.6
RMG Gilliat	19	31	4	755	110	27.96
PJ Sainsbury	20	29	10	721	120*	37.94
MNS Taylor	20	24	6	441	50	24.5
TE Jesty	17	24	3	305	52	14.52
GR Stephenson	20	22	7	276	42	18.4
RV Lewis	13	23	3	243	38	12.15
DR O'Sullivan	13	13	0	214	45	16.46
RS Herman	20	19	4	210	38*	14
AJ Murtagh	5	9	2	133	47	19
TJ Mottram	17	14	6	51	15*	6.37

THREE Hampshire bowlers took more than 50 Championship wickets in 1973 – and Peter Sainsbury and David O'Sullivan weren't far off that milestone either.

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP 1973 - HAMPSHIRE BOWLING

	Rns	Wkts	BB	Av
MNS Taylor	1218	63	7-53	19.33RS
Herman	1497	63	5-49	23.76
TJ Mottram	1254	57	6-63	22
PJ Sainsbury	869	49	6-29	17.73
DR O'Sullivan	968	47	6-26	20.59
TE Jesty	719	35	5-24	20.54
BA Richards	193	6	2-23	32.16
CG Greenidge	36	2	2-20	18
RMG Gilliat	3	1	1-3	3
RV Lewis	23	0		

HOW Hampshire's 'invincibles' won the 1973 County Championship title.

May 1973

Grace Road: Hampshire 233 (P Sainsbury 77no, C Greenidge 53) & 226-6 (C Greenidge 73, B Richards 69), Leicestershire 199 (C Balderstone 85, T Jesty 5-30) & 226-7 (C Balderstone 90). Drawn

Chris Balderstone twice compiled his highest ever Championship score as the season opener petered out into a draw.

There were also two half-centuries in the game for Gordon Greenidge, who compiled a 135-trun opening stand with fellow legend Barry Richards in the second innings.

Leicestershire had been hopeful of a first innings lead, reaching 197-5 – only to lose their last five wickets for just two runs.

Trevor Jesty's 5-30 return was a new career best for the all-rounder.

County Ground, Southampton: Sussex 124 (P Sainsbury 6-29) & 180 (G Greenidge 100), Hampshire 162 (T Greig 4-44, U Joshi 4-43) & 143-3 (D Turner 44). Hampshire won by seven wickets.

Both sides fielded a G Greenidge, but it was Sussex's Geoff who outscored his more famous namesake Gordon with a century in his side's second innings.

Hampshire still romped to victory, though, with David Turner (44) and Barry Richards (39) putting on 90 for the second wicket in their second innings.

Hampshire had struggled to open up a first innings lead, slipping to 99-7 and 119-8 before Mike Taylor (33no) top scored at No 8.

Taylor added 32 for the last wicket with Bob Herman (20) – the highest partnership in Hampshire's first innings.

Hampshire were also held up by a last wicket stand when Sussex batted a second time.

After reducing their visitors to 122-9, they could only watch as Greenidge and No 11 Ujay Joshi put on 68 for the last Sussex wicket.

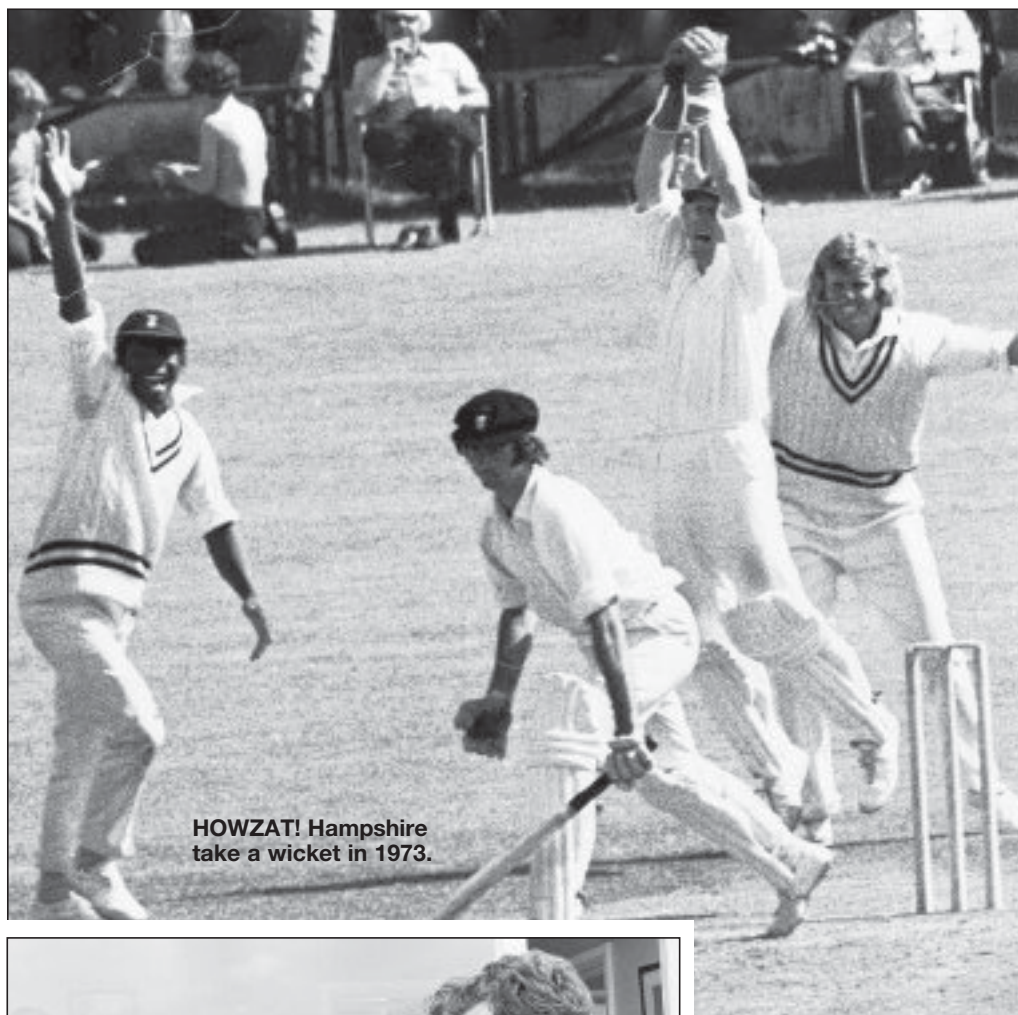
Headingley: Yorkshire 168 (G Boycott 73) & 259 (J Hampshire 84), Hampshire 341 (G Greenidge 196no, M Taylor 50) & 87-3. Hampshire won by 7 wickets.

Gordon Greenidge struck his highest ever Championship score as Hampshire won their second successive game by seven wickets.

No 8 Mike Taylor (50) was the only other visiting batsman to pass 24 in the first innings as the West Indian master blaster put Hampshire in a commanding position they did not relinquish.

Though Geoff Boycott was in the runs, his opening partner Richard Lumb – dad of ex-Hampshire batsman Michael – was out for a pair.

After Greenidge had fallen for a



HOWZAT! Hampshire take a wicket in 1973.



SHAKE: Richard Gilliat after Hampshire's title win.

single second time around, skipper Richard Gilliat (33no) guided his side home.

Bristol: Gloucestershire 326 (M Proctor 147, Sadiq 109), Hampshire 82 (T Brown 5-29, J Davey 4-37) & 244-8. Drawn.

This was the closest Hampshire came to defeat in their title-winning season.

After the whole of the first day was washed out by rain, South African all-rounder Mike Proctor and Pakistan international Sadiq slammed centuries.

Tony Brown and Jack Davey then skittled shell-shocked Hampshire for 82, enforcing the follow on in the process.

Hampshire were indebted to David Turner's battling 74 to force the draw, as well as an unbroken ninth wicket stand of 61 between Bob Herman (38no) and Bob Stephenson (26no).

Swansea: Glamorgan 110 (T Jesty 5-27) & 98 (P Sainsbury 4-42), Hampshire 159 (D Turner 58) & 50-2. Hampshire won by eight wickets.

Trevor Jesty recorded best ever Championship bowling figures for the second time in a month to set up a low-scoring victory at St Helen's.

WHAT THE WORLD WAS LIKE BACK IN 1973 - SEE PAGES 42/43

Hampshire CricketSpotlight

to the 1973 title ...



Famous injuries

A PICTURE of England and Manchester United striker Wayne Rooney's nasty head injury was posted on Facebook, demonstrating why the 27-year-old has been ruled out of the World Cup qualifiers against Moldova and Ukraine. Here, the Sports Pink looks at other famous sporting head injuries.

Paul Ince, England v Italy, 1997.
England only needed a point to qualify for the 1998 World Cup going into the game against Italy, and captain Ince received a blow to the head in the first half which needed attention. Returning to the pitch in bandages, as the game wore on, Ince's shirt was turned red but he stayed on the field as England got the result they needed to qualify.

Mike Gatting, West Indies v England, Jamaica, 1986.
England batsman Mike Gatting suffered a hefty blow which broke his nose during England's tour of the West Indies in 1986, which the tourists went on to lose 5-0. Gatting was facing the bowling of fast bowler Malcolm Marshall in the 1st ODI at Jamaica on February 18 and was struck on the face by a vicious bouncer. The blow was so hard that when the ball was returned to the bowler Marshall found a piece of bone lodged in the leather.

Terry Butcher, England v Sweden, 1989.
Butcher's blood-stained white Three Lions shirt and bandaged head has become an iconic image of England's World Cup 1990 qualifying campaign. The England centre-back was given stitches at the side of the pitch before returning to the field to play in the vital



TERRY BUTCHER

qualifier, with constant headers causing his bandages to disintegrate and leaving him with a shirt covered in blood.

David Beckham, Manchester United v Old Trafford, 2003.
Beckham needed stitches above his left eye after he was accidentally struck by a boot kicked by then Manchester United manager Sir Alex Ferguson. Ferguson was venting his anger after United were beaten 2-0 in the FA Cup by Arsenal at Old Trafford, with the flying boot hitting the midfielder in the face in the dressing room. Less than four months later, Beckham joined Real Madrid.

Gary Mabbutt, Tottenham v Wimbledon, 1993.
Tottenham captain Mabbutt fractured his cheekbone and eye socket during a contentious challenge by Wimbledon's John Fashanu in a clash at White Hart Lane. Fashanu's elbow struck Mabbutt in the face during an aerial challenge in the seventh minute, leaving Mabbutt needing an operation to have metal plates inserted into his face.

HOW THEY FINISHED

	P	W	L	D	Bt	Bw	Pts
Hampshire	20	10	0	10	84	81	265
Surrey	20	9	3	8	71	73	234
Northants	20	8	4	8	52	76	208
Kent	20	4	3	13	98	59	197
Gloucestershire	20	6	4	9	63	70	193
Worcestershire	20	6	4	10	56	75	191
Warwickshire	20	5	5	10	74	62	186
Essex	20	6	5	9	46	72	178
Leicestershire	20	4	3	12	66	60	166
Somerset	20	7	2	11	29	60	159]
Glamorgan	20	4	8	8	44	68	152
Lancashire	20	4	6	10	44	67	151
Middlesex	20	4	5	10	49	54	148
Yorkshire	20	3	5	11	28	69	132
Sussex	20	2	10	8	42	67	129
Derbyshire	20	2	10	8	15	67	102
Nottinghamshire	20	1	8	11	28	63	101

Abandonment: Gloucestershire v Leicestershire
Tie: Middlesex v Yorkshire.



SIGN OF THE TIMES: A Hampshire banner says it all in 1973.

David Turner was the only player to pass 50 in the game, while Gordon Greenidge was 35 not out in Hampshire's second innings. But for rain, Hampshire would have won inside two days.

June 1973

Coventry: Hampshire 396 (B Richards 240, G Greenidge 56) & 37-3, Warwickshire 223 & 207 (T Mottram 6-63). Hampshire won by seven wickets.

Two career best performances helped Hampshire storm to another away success.

First, Barry Richards passed his previous best Championship score of 204 to put the visitors in command.

Then, after Warwickshire had been asked to follow on, Thomas Mottram bagged his best Championship figures of 6-63.

Left just a modest amount for victory, Hampshire lost three wickets to Bob Willis before collecting their fourth win in six games.



Portsmouth: Surrey 204 (J Edrich 72) & 281-5 (J Edrich 59, R Lewis 70, Y Ahmed 52), Hampshire 367 (B Richards 116, G Greenidge 99). Drawn

Barry Richards and Gordon Greenidge put on 207 for Hampshire's first wicket. While Richards scored his second

PRESENTATION: Fans watch on as Richard Gilliat shakes hands.

ton in three innings, Greenidge just missed out on his second Championship hundred of the season.

Surrey easily made the draw with John Edrich scoring two half centuries in the game.

Hove: Sussex 200 (G Greenidge 54, J Morley 55) & 261-3 (J Morley 102no, P Graves 74), Hampshire 178 (A Murtagh 47) & 168-5 (B Richards 56). Drawn

No 7 bat Andy Murtagh top scored in the county's first innings, and also scored a vital 37not out in the second as Hampshire claimed a draw despite being second best for large parts of the south coast derby.

Jeremy Morley was the hosts' best performer with a half-century and an unbeaten century.

Tunbridge Wells: Kent 225-6 (G Johnson 97, D Nicholls 50, M Taylor 4-59) & 149-5 (M Cowdrey 58no, J Shepherd 57no, M Taylor 5-31), Hampshire 150-4 (G Greenidge 55, R Gilliat 67no) & 84-6. Drawn

Continued on page 40

ADAM RANT RETURNS NEXT WEEK

Hampshire Cricket Spotlight



HAMPSHIRE RESULTS 2013

APRIL

10-13 Leicestershire (h)LVCC2
Hants 454-7 dec (J Vince 148, G Bailey 93, S
Ervine 69, A Wheeler 56no), Leics 143 (J
Tomlinson 4-23) & 182-5. Match drawn

17-19 Loughborough (h)FR
Hampshire 377-4 (J Vince 114, A Wheeler 102no,
J Adams 96) & 189-1 (M Carberry 118m J
Adams 61no), Loughborough 163 (D Griffiths 5-
68) & 245 (J Vince 5-41). Won by 155
runs

24-27 Worcestershire (h)LVCC2
Hants 500-9 dec (J Adams 219no, M Carberry
62, J Vince 52), Worcs 206 & 252.
Won by an innings and 42 runs

29-May 2 Essex (a)LVCC2
Hampshire 197 (S Ervine 60) & 199 (J Vince 67, L
Dawson 52), Essex 254 & 143-6. Hampshire lost
by four wickets

MAY

3 Essex (a)CB40 (FL)
Essex 244-7, Hampshire 245-1 (J Vince 129no)
Hampshire won by nine wickets

5 Scotland (h)CB40
Scotland 192-7, Hampshire 194-5 (J
Adams 51, L Dawson 54no). Hampshire won by
nine wickets

6 Surrey (a)CB40
Hampshire 228 (S Ervine 63), Surrey 229-1.
Hampshire lost nine wickets

8-11 Gloucestershire (a)LVCC2
Hampshire 274 (J Adams 138, D Briggs 54) &
120-4, Gloucestershire 400-4 dec. Drawn

19 Durham Dynamos (h)CB40
Durham 241-8 (C Wood 3-37, D Griffiths 3-42),
Hampshire 242-5 (M Carberry 96, J Adams 67)
Hampshire won by 5 wickets

22 Lancashire (h)CB40 (FL)
Lancashire 244-6, Hampshire 250-1 (M Carberry
150no, J Adams 66no). Hampshire won by 9
wickets

23-26 Lancashire (h)LVCC2
Lancashire 295 (D Balcombe 5-104) & 373-6,
Hampshire 258 (G Bailey 84, L Dawson 55).
Drawn

29- 1 Northants (a)LVCC2
Hampshire 206 (L Dawson 76), Northants 425-9
(J Tomlinson 3-75). Drawn

JUNE

5-8 Kent (h)LVCC2
Hampshire 455 (N McKenzie 146, S Ervine 86, J
Adams 65) & 207-3 dec (L Dawson 87no, J Vince
79no), Kent 321 & 298-8. Drawn

12-15 Gloucestershire (h)LVCC2
Glos 410 (D Mascarenhas 4-61), Hampshire 212
(D Mascarenhas 41). Lost by 198 runs

19 Derbyshire (h)YB40
Hampshire 277 (M Carberry 53, A Wheeler 70),
Derbyshire 231-8 (S Tanvir 3-42). Hants won by
46 runs.

22 Durham (a)YB40
Hampshire 224-9 (L Dawson 69, S Ervine 33, J
Adams 32), Durham 218-4 (S Tanvir 4-39).
Durham won by 6 wickets D/L

26 SurreyFLT20
Surrey 139-6 (Griffiths 2-23, D Briggs 2-20)
Hampshire 144-5 (M Carberry 60, N McKenzie
37). Hampshire won by five wickets.

28 Essex Eagles (a)T20
Essex 18-1, abandoned

JULY

5 Sussex Sharks (a)T20
Sussex 145-6, Hampshire 148-5 (N McKenzie
71no, M Carberry 50). Hants won by five wickets.

8-11 Glamorgan (a)LVCC
Hampshire 341 (J Vince 80, L Dawson 72) & 179
(N McKenzie 67), Glamorgan 300 & 177 (J
Tomlinson 5-44). Hampshire won by 43 runs.

12 Sussex Sharks (h)T20
Sussex 118-7, Hampshire 122-6 (M Carberry 41).
Hants won by four wickets.

Continued on facing page

How the title was

from page 39

After losing the whole of the first day to rain, a draw was always the likeliest outcome despite some declarations.

Highlight for Hampshire was Mikee Taylor's nine wickets in the game, including all five in Kent's second innings when they recovered to 149-5 after being reduced to 49-5.

July 1973

Taunton: Hampshire 262 (P Sainsbury 120no, D O'Sullivan 45) & 256-5 (G Greenidge 109, P Sainsbury 46no), Somerset 319 (J Parks 90, T Cartwright 57) & 40-3. **Drawn.**

New Zealand Test international David O'Sullivan scored his highest Championship score as Hampshire recovered from 78-7 in their first innings.

A draw was always likely, though, once Jim Parks – father of former Hampshire wicket-keeper Bobby – had top scored for hosts in their first innings.

Another Gordon Greenidge century couldn't help force victory.

Portsmouth: Glamorgan 255 (T Cordle 70, M Taylor 5-65) & 122-8, Hampshire 196 (G Greenidge 72, M Nash 4-46, B Lloyd 4-49) & 57-4. **Drawn**

Glamorgan recovered from 80-7 in their first innings thanks to West Indian Tony Cordle hitting 70 at No 9.

There was some late drama when Hampshire collapsed to 18-4 in their second innings, but the draw was comfortably made after that.



Basingstoke: Hampshire 256 (G Greenidge 95, R Gilliat 52), Middlesex 58-2. **Drawn.**

After Gordon Greenidge had again impressed on the first day, the whole of the second day was washed out and only 26.4 overs managed on the third.

Southport: Lancashire 214 (H Pilling 77, K Snellgrove 60) & 100 (D Lloyd 54, T Jesty 5-24), Hampshire 388 (G Greenidge 153, B Rigards 128). **Hampshire won by an innings and 74 runs.**

Gordon Greenidge and Barry Richards gave another batting master class with an opening stand of 200 as Hampshire stormed to an innings victory.

For the third time that season, Trevor Jesty claimed career best Championship bowling figures.

Lancashire lost their last four wickets in their second innings for no runs, with Jesty claiming all of them.

New Road: Hampshire 342 (D Turner 77, T Jesty 52, Imran Khan 4-63) & 302-4 (G Greenidge 104, B Richards 82, D Turner 66no), Worcestershire 329 (J Parker 67, B D'Oliveira 74no) & 124 (M Taylor 4-17, P Sainsbury 3-23). **Hampshire won by 191 runs.**

A dramatic Worcestershire collapse enabled Hampshire to take another big step towards the title.

Having reached 71-1 in their second innings, the hosts tumbled to 124 all out with Mike Taylor and Peter Sainsbury sharing seven wickets.



CROWDED HOUSES: Spectators pack into Southampton's County Ground in the summer of 1973 as Hampshire close in on the County Championship title.

Earlier, there had been yet another Gordon Greenidge century to celebrate while David Turner weighed in with two half-centuries.

August 1973

Portsmouth: Essex 180 (K Fletcher 75, M Taylor 4-40) & 113-9 (D O'Sullivan 6-35), Hampshire 253 (R Gilliat 110,

D Turner 98). **Drawn.**

David O'Sullivan claimed Championship best bowling figures as Essex crumbled from 92-3 to 113-9 in their second innings.

Hampshire were therefore left to rue losing a large chunk of the second day's play to rain.

Skipper Richard Gilliat compiled his first century of the season while David Turner fell just

Hampshire v Glamorgan YB40 - see dailyecho.co.uk for report/reaction

Hampshire Cricket Spotlight

won in real style



short of his first hundred of the campaign.

Portsmouth: Derbyshire 176 (D O'Sullivan 4-60) & 203 (G Miller 70, J Bolus 50, P Sainsbury 5-41), Hampshire 378 (R Gilliat 103, R Swindell 6-97) & 4-0. **Hampshire won by 10 wickets.**

Captain Richard Gilliat scored his second century at the United Services ground in a matter of days.

Peter Sainsbury's five wicket haul in Derbyshire's second innings left Hampshire needing just a few runs for victory.

Bob Stephenson went in as opener and hit the



FLASHBACK: 1973 title winners Gordon Greenidge and David O'Sullivan line up together in a Hampshire 2nds team picture in 1970. Back (from left): E Cosway, D Dicker, G Greenidge, D O'Sullivan, P Ryan, M Barnard (manager). Front: R Lewis, K Wheatley, L Harrison, J Holder, L Worrell.

winning runs off the first ball of the innings.

County Ground, Southampton: Northants 108 (M Taylor 4-30) & 148 (T Mottram 4-27, D O'Sullivan 4-50), Hampshire 167 (B Richards 45, G Greenidge 45, B Bedi 6-69) & 90-3. **Hampshire won by seven wickets.**

No batsman from either side managed to pass 50 in a low scoring encounter which resulted in another Hampshire success.

Bournemouth: Hampshire 263 (M Taylor 49) & 208-7 (R Gilliat 56), Notts 127 (D O'Sullivan 6-26) & 49 (D O'Sullivan 5-15). **Hampshire won by 295 runs.**

David O'Sullivan claimed match figures of 11-41 as Hampshire thrashed a dismal Nottinghamshire side that would end up bottom of the Championship table.

Bournemouth: Gloucestershire 204 (M Taylor 7-53) & 290 (Sadiq 170), Hampshire 307 (G Greenidge 96, J Mortimore 6-103) & 190-5 (G Greenidge 65, R Gilliat 48, T Jesty 33no). **Hampshire won by five wickets.**

Mike Taylor celebrated career best Championship bowling figures in Gloucestershire's first innings.

Two more half-centuries from Gordon Greenidge also helped Hampshire to record a double success at Dean Park in the space of just over a week.

The highlight for the visitors was Sadiq's career best Championship score of 170 – the next best score in the innings being 27.

September 1973

County Ground, Southampton: Kent 322 (Asif Iqbal 120, A Knott 58) & 235 (A Knott 84no, D O'Sullivan 5-93), Hampshire 471 (B Richards 143 retired hurt, G Greenidge 118, D Turner 64, R Gilliat 54). **Drawn.**

Barry Richards and Gordon Greenidge put on 241 for the first Hampshire wicket before the former retired hurt.

That only brought David Turner to the crease, and Hampshire had progressed to 334 before the first wicket fell.

The game ended in a draw with Alan Knott unbeaten on 84 batting at No 9 in Kent's second innings.



GOOD TO TALK: Richard Gilliat, right, with Barry Richards.

14 Middlesex (Richmond)T20
Middlesex 162-5, Hampshire 164-3 (J Vince 84, M Carberry 43). Hants won by seven wickets.

15-18 Kent (a)LVCC2
Hampshire 405 (M Carberry 145, L Dawson 75, S Ervine 72) & 200-4 (L Dawson 78no, M Carberry 66), Kent 513 (J Tomlinson 3-72). **Drawn.**

19 Surrey (a)T20
Surrey 126-6, Hampshire 127-3 (J Adams 30, S Ervine 28no). Hants won by seven wickets.

21 Kent Spitfires (h)T20
Kent 143-6 (S Tanvir 3-29, D Briggs 3-19), Hampshire 135-8 (N McKenzie 47). Hants lost by eight runs.

26 Essex Eagles (h)T20
Essex 182-5, Hampshire 183-5 (M Carberry 54, S Ervine 36). Hants won by five wickets.

29 Kent Spitfires (a)T20
Hampshire 185-6 (M Carberry 83no, N McKenzie 45), Kent 123 (L Dawson 4-19). Hants won by 62 runs.

31 Middlesex (h)T20
Hampshire 190-3 (S Ervine 60no, N McKenzie 47no, J Adams 43), Middlesex 182-7. Hants won by eight runs.

AUGUST

2-5 Glamorgan (h)LVCC2
Hampshire 349 (M Carberry 94, J Vince 61) & 237-4 (C Wood 69, M Carberry 62), Glamorgan 478 (C Wood 3-61). **Drawn.**

6 Bangladesh A (h)FR
Hampshire 223 (L Dawson 97), Bangladesh A 215-9 (L Dawson 3-11). Hampshire won by 8 runs.

7 Lancashire (h)T20 QF
Hampshire 190-3 (S Ervine 100no, J Vince 60), Lancashire 201-4. Hants won by one run.

11 Essex Eagles (h)CB40
Hampshire 216 (J Vince 66), Essex 186 (S Tanvir 4-29). Hants won by 30 runs.

13 Scotland (a)CB40
Scotland 136, Hampshire 137-1 (J Vince 75no, M Carberry 45). Hants won by 9 wickets.

15 Surrey (h)CB40
Surrey 219-9, Hampshire 220-7 (S Ervine 65, L Dawson 40, D Mascarenhas 31). Hants won by three wickets.

17 SurreyT20 SF
Hampshire 142-9 (S Ervine 47), Surrey 145-6. Hants lost by four wickets.

20 Lancashire (a)CB40
Lancashire 261 (D Mascarenhas 5-42), Hampshire 256-8 (N McKenzie 65, S Ervine 43, J Adams 41). Hampshire lost by 5 runs.

26 Derbyshire Falcons (a)CB40
Hampshire 219 (J Adams 64, J Vince 40), Derbyshire 178 (C Wood 3-23, M Carberry 3-37). Hampshire won by 41 runs.

28-31 LancashireLVCC2
Lancashire 421 (J Tomlinson 3-91) & 284-5 (B Taylor 4-64), Hampshire 210 (J Vince 106) & 373 (A Wheeler 140, M Coles 68). Hants lost by 122 runs.

SEPTEMBER

3-6 Northamptonshire (h)LVCC2

7 Glamorgan (h)YBSF

11-14 Worcestershire (a)LVCC2

17-20 Leicestershire (a)LVCC2

21 CB40 final,Lord's

24-27 Essex (h)LVCC2

BOOK of the WEEK

*The Playboy and the Rat
The Story of James Hunt and
Niki Lauda*
By Roy Calley

Sports book of the month
price: £12.99

WHAT is described as James Hunt's 'decadent lifestyle' is about to get the Hollywood treatment when Ron Howard's film, *Rush* is released on 13 September.

There's no doubt that Hunt lived life to the full.

In fact, it would be fair to describe him as Formula One's last playboy, a man who, according to some, was a womaniser, drank like a fish, wore flip-flops to black tie dinners, smoked like a chimney and drove high-speed racing cars with aplomb.

How accurate Tinseltown's portrayal of Hunt will be remains to be seen, but it would be disappointing if an over-emphasis on his off-track activities detracted from his undoubted prowess as a racing driver.

Hunt is often portrayed as a snobby, upper-class oaf who got lucky, but there was little privileged about his route to the very top of Formula One.

And while his compelling F1 battles with Niki Lauda gave rise to a belief that they were the fiercest enemies, in fact these apparent rivals shared a scruffy basement flat in west London as both men endeavoured to make their way in the cut-throat world of grands prix racing.

In case the movie doesn't concen-

trate for long on Hunt's almost perennial lack of money and the fact that he didn't always have a new babe on his arm, then a more accurate

picture of James Hunt and his rivalry with Niki Lauda can be established by reading Roy Calley's book.

Lauda was probably the more accomplished driver, but Hunt, known as 'Hunt the Shunt' for his propensity to write cars off from his earliest days in motor racing, was prepared to take more risks.

Their racing denouement came in the hirsute days of 1976 after Hunt moved to the McLaren team to take on Ferrari and Lauda.

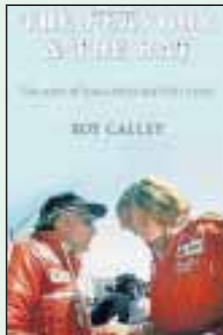
That year's F1 championship has been described as the sport's best-ever, even though Lauda was absent for two races after suffering a near-fatal crash at the Nurburgring which caused such severe facial burns and damage to his lungs that he was administered the last rites.

Much was made of the so-called 'rivalry' between Hunt and Lauda during the 1976 championship which had everything: great theatre, disqualifications, intrigue, dirty tricks and most of all, courage.

However, away from the race track, Hunt and Lauda were good friends.

"The difference between me and James was, I always knew there was a limit," said Lauda in a recent pre-movie interview.

Hunt died, penniless, at the age of just 45.



Hampshire Cricket Spotlight

The year Glam rock

Simon Carter

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SPORTS EDITOR

IT was a year which opened with British Army troops coming under attack from 400 schoolchildren in Derry.

As the Troubles continued unabated, it was a depressing example of how a new year would not bring a peaceful end to the violence.

As the year progressed, the IRA launched a large swathe of bombs on the mainland, specifically targeting London.

Northern Ireland was by no means the only problem facing Ted Heath's Government, though.

With inflation rising, the last thing he needed was a miners' strike – but in November that is what he got.

Due to coal shortages, Heath was forced to announce a three-day week which came into force on the final day of December.

A year which had begun with sober news therefore ended in a similar way.

Welcome to 1973, the year of Pink Floyd's epic *'Dark Side of the Moon'* album and the peak of Glam Rock as a musical force – witness No 1 chart hits for Wizzard, Slade, Sweet, Suzi Quatro and the now disgraced Gary Glitter.

It was the year when Yorkshire comedy *Last of the Summer Wine* debuted on television, where it would stay for 31 years.

It was the year when firefighters and ambulance drivers also went on strike, and VAT came into being in Britain.

It was the year when the Queen's eldest child, Princess Anne, married Captain Mark Phillips.

It was the year when Second Division Sunderland shocked the mighty Leeds to lift the FA Cup, and Red Rum won the first of his three Grand Nationals at Aintree.

It was the year of a new James Bond film, *Live and Let Die*, and the first ever mobile phone call was made in New York.

For food fans, there was good news too – Pizza Hut opened its first UK restaurant (in Islington, London).

It was the year when one of the major sporting events was a tennis match between a man and a woman, the famous 'Battle of the Sexes' contest which saw Billy Jean King beat Bobby Riggs.

And it was the year when Hampshire's cricketers last won the blue riband event of the domestic campaign, the County Championship.

Forty years on, it is fascinating to look back at the state of the nation when Richard Gilliat and his men were crowned England's top team.

Politically, as we have seen, it was a horrendously tough year for the



FLASHBACK: Slade salute their fans outside Southampton's Gaumont in 1973.



FLASHBACK: Princess Anne marries Captain Mark Phillips.



FLASHBACK: Swaythling plant manager Stan Kelly with Southampton Mayor Robert McGuirk to celebrate the Ford company's extension at the site.

Government.

Having won their strike in 1972, the miners went out again just over two years later – forcing Heath to declare a state of emergency.

The miners went on to win that strike as well.

There was an oil crisis too, as well as a coal one.

In November, the Government warned that petrol rationing might have to be introduced as a result of the crisis in the Middle East.

IRA bombs, meanwhile, went off

in Britain at regular intervals throughout the year.

Between 1968 and 2001, over 3,500 people died as a result of the Troubles – either in Ireland or in the UK.

Of those, 253 were killed in 1973

DAILY ECHO AND PINK - BEST FOR SOUTH COAST SPORT

Hampshire Cricket Spotlight

stormed the charts



CARNIVAL TIME: The procession moves through Southampton in July 1973.



RAG WEEK: The procession in Southampton in March 1973. Right: Roger Moore and his wife Luisa at the Southampton premiere of the James Bond film *Live and Let Die* in July 1973.



alone – the fifth highest yearly figure ever, though the lowest in the period 1972-1976 inclusive.

At home and overseas, therefore, the news was gloomy.

With that in mind, the pop charts offered one reason to smile.

Whatever you think about Glam rock, you cannot say it didn't offer a colourful alternative to the dismal diet of news.

The likes of Sweet, Slade, Wizzard and Gary Glitter provided catchy songs amid a riot of outlandish

clothes and hair that have come to characterise the decade many claim was the one style forgot.

The Glam rockers didn't have the charts all their own way, though.

There were chart toppers for Gilbert and Sullivan and Peters

and Lee, plus Dawn's Tie A Yellow Ribbon Round an Old Oak Tree.

The average price of a house in the UK, meanwhile, was just under £10,000.

Earlier this year it was just under £240,000.

BOOK of the WEEK

The Real Jeeves
By Brian Halford

Sports book of the month price:
£13.43, saving 23% on rrp

Perhaps the first thing that strikes the reader when picking up a copy of Brian Halford's engaging and superbly well-researched *The Real Jeeves* is an immediate sense of contrast.

Against a sepia background, a heavy crimson colour protrudes from both a cricket ball and a poppy, deliberately contrasting the conviviality and fun of hazy summer afternoons spent playing cricket and the dark spectre of the First World War.

Percy Jeeves was an outstanding cricketer as the series of contemporary reports, reproduced here, prove, but his fame came later, following the creation of his literary namesake, PG Wodehouse's 'inimitable' Jeeves.

Wodehouse saw Jeeves play cricket only once, but the author considered his name and on-field manner ideal in a different, non-sporting context as Bertie Wooster's suave, urbane butler.

Tracking Jeeves career from his days as a precocious talent, Halford



does an admirable job illustrating the cricketer's rise.

His reports of Jeeves's performances are carefully detailed, often interspersed with anecdotes which add enjoyable spurts of pace to the book's narrative.

Yet Jeeves's story is of one man's sporting talent denied – as so many were once they strode gallantly off to war.

In every respect, war was responsible for yet another human tragedy.

George Orwell once suggested that the candid writing of soldiers on the Western Front was more touching and revealing than most of the contemporary literature produced by intellectuals.

Halford succeeds in weaving some of these writings into the final chapters, ensuring that the harsh conflicts which came to dominate Percy Jeeves's life take on a palpable form.

Strangely, his life, in turn, suddenly becomes far more meaningful.

The blurred afternoons playing cricket feel even more distant and poignant, reminding the reader of the senseless devastation caused by the Great War.

PG Wodehouse may have saved the Jeeves surname from anonymity, but Brian Halford has successfully told the tale of the real Jeeves who perished on the Western Front.

His body, once capable of thrilling thousands of cricket fans, was never retrieved from the battlefield.

GOT A STORY FOR US? EMAIL echosport@dailyecho.co.uk

Local Cricket Spotlight

Basingstoke promoted at first attempt

BASINGSTOKE & North Hants were crowned champions of Southern Electric Premier League Division Two in their first ever season in the competition after a crushing victory at May's Bounty.

The Bountymen made sure they completed a 100 per cent record on home soil as Paultons were the last side to be put the sword, beaten by 123 runs.

It meant that jubilant Basingstoke captain Dan Coombs, pictured, a former Southampton Solent University student, signed off his time with his home town team in true style before heading to Australia later this month.



Coombs, who is emigrating to Melbourne, led from the front with 643 runs, the highest aggregate by a 'home grown' player in SPL2. Coombs said: "This caps a brilliant year for us and I think we have proved we are the best team,

having beaten everyone and won a lot of games by over 100 runs or eight wickets. "It has been a big team effort and everyone has played their part at some point to make sure we can enjoy this moment of winning the league."

He added: "When we joined the Premier League this season our aim was always to win, but that is never easy and you have to perform consistently all year, which is what we have done."

Basingstoke suffered just two defeats all year, but Coombs believes the first one, in only the second week of the campaign at Calmore Sports could well have been a blessing in disguise.

The Bountymen skipper said: "Losing at Calmore was a wake-up call for us and then after that we just went a really good winning run which took us to the title."

Another big game in the season was the victory at Totton and Eling as Coombs said: "We were set to lose that game, but fought back really well to take the win. That was important as it was the week before we played our title rivals Hursley Park for the first time. Winning that game opened up the gap at the top."

The final game of the season ended like so many this year, with a big Basingstoke victory after visiting Paultons were set a target of 252 and bowled out for 128, Martyn James, left-arm spinner Dave Pistorius and hat-trick man Ryan Connor all taking three wickets.

Basingstoke had posted 251-9 through a half-century from Matt Thankachan (51) and an unbeaten last wicket partnership from Connor (41) and Pistorius (21).

Talking about the last win of the season, Coombs said: "We made it hard for ourselves, but Matt, Ryan and Dave helped us push the score to a total that I would back us to defend every day with our bowling attack – and that proved to be the case."

Basingstoke will be promoted into the second tier of Premier League cricket next summer, alongside runners-up Hursley Park.

Eagerly awaiting their arrival are arch local rivals Hook & Newnham Basics, who have never previously played a league match against Basingstoke.

Hat-trick by Metcalfe

LYMINGTON all-rounder Matt Metcalfe is the ECB Southern Electric Premier League's leading wicket-taker for the third time in the past four seasons.

Top of the charts in 2010 and 2011 in his Bournemouth days, Metcalfe finished the season with 34 wickets, enjoying the second best economy rate (2.97) behind James Hibberd of South Wilts.

Derek Kenway's title winning century on the final day of the season against Sarisbury Athletic, clinched the former Hampshire cricketer the Division 1 batting prize.

His Burridge team-mate Geoff Dods, who will captain Cape Town in the Western Province League this winter, topped the bowling charts with 42 wickets –

the third highest recorded in the second tier.

Hursley Park left-arm spinner Matt Oliver was lead SPL2 wicket-taker – his 36 victims helping the Quarters club to promotion.

Final statistics –

Premier Division

Batting: * Travis Head (Ventnor) 733, Robert Gibson (Havant) 689, Oli Mills (Ventnor) 687, Richard Morris (Bashley Rydal) 664, Lewis McManus (Academy) 628, Bill Walsh (St Cross Symondians) 608, James Hayward (South Wilts) 603, * Alex Keath (Bournemouth) 601, George Adair (St Cross Symondians) 595, * Scott Henry (Lymington) 590, Neil Thurgood (Bashley Rydal) 577, Peter Hopson (Havant) 569, Tom Morton (South Wilts) 567.

Bowling: Matt Metcalfe (Lymington) 34, * Alex Keath (Bournemouth) 31, Jordan Finney (St Cross Symondians) 30, James Hibberd (South



MATT METCALFE

Wilts) 29, Richard Logan (St Cross Symondians) 29, Rob Franklin (South Wilts) 28, Julian Ballinger (Alton) 27, Darren Augustus (Totton & Eling) 27, Kevin Nash (Bashley Rydal) 26, Darren Cowley (Lymington) 26.

Wicket-keeping: Lewis McManus (Academy) 26, Ed Ellis (Lymington) 25, Tom Morton (South Wilts) 24, Tom Arnold (Totton & Eling) 22.

Division 1

Batting: Derek Kenway (Burridge) 740, * Greg Dawson (Andover) 697, Azzi Chowdhury (Burridge) 644, Scott Baldwin (Hartley Wintney) 603, Ben Thane (Hook & Newnham Basics) 589, James Park (New Milton) 585, Tom Gates (Fawley) 585.

Bowling: * Geoff Dods (Burridge) 42, * Roscoe Thattil (Hambleton) 30, Jamie Richards (Liphook & Ripsley) 26, George Watts (New Milton) 25, James Ingram (Sarisbury Athletic) 25, * Matt Willett (Rowledge) 25, Dan Goldstraw (Sarisbury Athletic) 24, Roy Cockram (Hartley Wintney) 24, Ryan Covey (Liphook & Ripsley) 24.

Wicket-keeping: Tom Prodomo (New Milton) 28, Jamie Rood (Burridge) 26, Ian Metcalfe (Rowledge) 21.

Division 2

Batting: * Dan Payne (Sparsholt) 748, Jamie Eccles (Hursley Park) 743, Dan Coombs (Basingstoke) 643, Graham Noble (Langley

Manor) 596, Stewart Magee (Paultons) 556, Raman Prendergast (Hursley Park) 501, Azeem Hamid (Totton & Eling II) 499, * Caleb Brookland (Langley Manor) 482, Dom Carson (US) 468, Chris Froud (Basingstoke) 466, Ben Johns (Calmore Sports) 453, Chris Ray (Paultons) 453.

Bowling: Matt Oliver (Hursley Park) 36, Dave Pistorius (Basingstoke) 32, Andy Denney (Paultons) 30, Dave Cox (US) 30, Matt Thankachan (Basingstoke) 30, Ryan Connor (Basingstoke) 29, * Elijah Turfitt-Smith (Calmore Sports) 28.

Wicket-keeping: Lee Carroll (US) 27, Lawrence Bengie (Basingstoke) 23, Simon Ennew (Paultons) 19, Matt Branford (Hursley Park) 19.

Division 3

Batting: Andy Galliers (Havant) 611, Matt Benfield (P & S) 551, Robert Jones (Portsmouth) 521, Ed Boyd (Trojans) 502, Rob Pittman (South Wilts II) 483, Tom Cowley (South Wilts II) 481, Tom Hockenull (Fair Oak) 470, Simon Loat (Havant II) 450.

Bowling: Vickram Dawson (Portsmouth) 40, Phil Loat (Havant II) 37, Paul Draper (South Wilts II) 36, Andy Mash (Fair Oak) 34, * Liam Duffield (Portsmouth) 33, Jake Lilley (Bashley Rydal II) 32, James Rapson (Bashley Rydal II) 30, Steve Mitchell (St Cross Symondians II) 30. **Wicket-keeping:** Alex Hammond (Portsmouth) 21, Sam Pittman (South Wilts II) 19, Chris Gates (Bashley Rydal II) 15, Simon Loat (Havant II) 15, Luke Matthews (Bournemouth II) 14.

SOUTH WILTS HAD 'WINNING HUNGER'

COMMITMENT, proper match preparation and consistency were three of the main factors behind South Wilts' successful defence of the ECB Southern Electric Premier Cricket League title, according to skipper James Hayward, who led the Bemerton club to a coveted double this summer.

In addition to winning the Premier Division championship this season, South Wilts lifted the Southern Electric t20 Cup for the first time since 2006, **writes MIKE VIMPANY.**

South Wilts won ten of their 15 SPL matches and finished 30 points clear of Havant, who were runners-up.

They won the Premier Division Time Pennant – awarded to the club with the best record in all-day cricket – for a fifth time in six years.

"The commitment of the players has been brilliant. They've turned up for training in good numbers every week, as a result of which we've been in the right mind-set to go out and perform every Saturday," he said.

"That's led to consistency. We have tried to be consistent with both our selection and our performances and I think generally we have got it right."

"Our t20 cup team was actually pretty different to our regular league side, but having the depth to bring four or five players in from the 2nd XI and still be strong shows us that the club is in a great position."

"Everyone who played either league or cup had that hunger to win, which makes a big difference. Over the last few years we have learned how to win games and more often than not now we are winning key moments."

Hayward, who led from the front, hitting three centuries in a 603-run haul besides



RUN GETTER: James Hayward hits out against Hampshire Academy.

cracking a magnificent 130 against Burridge in the Ageas Bowl t20 final, was even more delighted that South Wilts had retained their title with the SPL arguably at its strongest yet.

"The influx of the four Australian Academy cricketers meant the quality increased straight away; all of a sudden every side you play against has at least one stand out player."

"There are some good teams in the league finishing down the bottom of the table which shows that it certainly isn't a walk in the park."

"I think it is always harder to retain the title then actually win it. You find that you

suddenly become the team to beat and therefore there aren't too many easy games."

"That said, as a team we never thought about it or even mentioned our league position until the last few weeks of the season, it was kind of an unwritten rule that we just get on with it."

"It certainly worked for us and once again we were the strongest team throughout the middle period of the season, somewhere we've been strong for a number of years now."

A glance at the Premier Division statistics emphasises Hayward's comments about 'consistency' throughout the team.

In addition to Hayward's 603 runs, Tom Morton was just behind with 597, Zimbabwean Ryan Burl 411, Eddie Abel 385, Steve Riddle 309 and teenager Jack Mynott weighing in with 285 runs in just six knocks.

"All of our top seven averaged over 26 and that's pretty rare," Hayward added.

The South Wilts skipper picked out 28-wicket off-spinner Rob Franklin as his side's lead bowler.

"Frankie finished one behind James Hibberd in the end, but he's been excellent in the middle throughout the season."

"To be fair, all the bowlers have been decent – Hibberd (29) and Burl (22) made the charts – and our fielding, as always, was top drawer," he pointed out.

Hayward, man-of-the-match after a six-strewn 130 in the Electric t20 Cup final and Premier Division Cricketer of the Month in July, had a final word for the club's supporters.

"We get a lot more people watching our games than most. The Wilton Road boundary is often crammed with cars and families enjoying picnics: we appreciate that support and hope we've entertained everyone, not only this summer, but also last when we won the league for the first time in my spell at South Wilts," he said.

Local Cricket Spotlight

SHINING LIGHTS!

HOOK & Newnham Basics brought the curtain down on the Hampshire League season in quite incredible style by setting a new record for the highest total ever chased down – in four decades.

They overhauled Ryde's towering 360-5 to win by two wickets off the third from last ball of a County Division 1 match that produced an amazing 721 runs, a record aggregate.

Incredibly, it was Hook Seconds who achieved the feat – having lost both their opening batsmen with just three runs on the board!

Hook's King George V Ground is often a batsmen's best friend – and the bowlers certainly suffered in a game which yielded ten sixes and 80 boundaries.

Ben Wadmore (96) narrowly missed out on his third league century of the season as Ryde built their formidable total.

	Played	Won	Lost	Total	Ave
Waterlooville	14	14	0	323	23.07
Ellingham	14	13	1	303	21.64
Alton II	12	10	2	245	20.42
*Gosport Borough	14	9	5	232	16.57
Ryde	16	9	7	256	16.00
Ventnor II	13	7	6	205	15.77
Portchester	15	8	7	228	15.20
St Cross Syms III	16	7	9	227	14.19
Hook & N Basics II	15	7	7	209	13.93
*Locks Heath	14	6	8	182	13.00
Shrewton	14	5	9	174	12.43
Lymington II	14	5	9	173	12.36
Purbrook	15	6	9	184	12.27
Fareham & Croft	16	5	11	191	11.94
Rowledge II	14	4	9	160	11.43
*Easton & Mart W	14	5	9	159	11.36
*Old Basing	13	4	9	144	11.08

Cameron Mitchell (74), Laurence Tolfrey (46), Harry Collier (38) and John Zaccardi (37) all tucked in before teenager Josh Procter clouted three sixes in a quick-fire 23.

Ryde, operating without an overseas player, could hardly have believed they would be returning to their Island home a beaten side.

But, after that disastrous start, Kevin Light (121) and Matt McNally (77) put Hook in control, before Ben Allnut's 83 had the fielders staring hard at the electronic scoreboard as the total rose.

Hook lost wickets but Hampshire Seniors' prospect Graham Buckingham (22) got them across the line with two balls to spare.

As Hook write themselves into the HL record books, so Waterlooville completed a 14-win clean sweep of the CD1 title.

They bowled Locks Heath out for 197 in 40 overs before polishing off the target for a six-wicket win.

The Richardson brothers, Alex (51) and Jon (50) top scored for Locks Heath, whose outfield at Warsash Road looks in its best nick for a long while.

Half-centuries by South African run gun Byron Haycock (58) and Alex Sheppard (59) earned the Ville their 14th straight win.



Not for the first time this season, Brett Spicer was Ellingham's hero. He hit an undefeated 75 as Ellingham were rocking at 97-7 chasing Ventnor II's 213.

Mark Fletcher (65) and George Hatt, with a key 72 when Ventnor's

innings was in decline, led the way at Steephill.

But Ellingham were in a tidy pickle before Spicer appeared to turn the match on its head and ease the visitors to a two-wicket win.

So, Waterlooville and Ellingham,

who have occupied the top two places all summer long, finished champions and runners-up, respectively.

Now it's down to the Hampshire Cricket Board's ground accreditation gurus to assess potential pro-

Forty-ball ton helps clinch title

TROJANS batsman Mark Maunsell plundered a 40-ball century as the Stoneham club's third team clinched a Hampshire League Regional 3 North West promotion with a 158-

run victory at Hursley Parj IV.

Maunsell, who plays hockey for Winchester, cracked a six and 16 fours in his 100, sharing a third-wicket stand of 139 with Ed Hammill

(93) as Trojans chalked up an impressive 300-6 off 42 overs.

Hursley Park replied with 142-6. Trojans finished runners-up to Langley Manor III.

motion into the Premier League structure next season.

The HCB makes its recommendations to the Premier League next month.

Purbrook, who appeared destined for the drop for half the summer, put up a predictably testing final day for third-placed Alton II, who got home by 32 runs.

Howard Gadsby (43) and Lee Partner (42) eased Alton to 181 (Graham McCoy 4-17), but Purbrook were dismissed for 149 (James Holder 38), Alex Hughes and Mark Heffernan, taking a break from his normal wicket-keeping chores, sharing six of the wickets.

Australian Andrew Webb, who has enjoyed a tremendously successful summer with Portchester, made his farewell with 98 against St Cross Symondians III.

But he didn't finish a winner – Matt Haworth (64) and an undefeated 50 by Steve Berryman saw the Winchester side home.

The CD1 survival battle, as anticipated, went to the wire – with Easton & Martyr Worthy, Old Basing and Midhurst missing out.

Midhurst chased down Shrewton's 294-9 (Marcus Jenkins 67) to win by three wickets.

Easton & Martyr Worthy piled up 258-8 to beat relegation rivals Rowledge II by 52 runs – only to find they had failed to avoid the drop by a solitary point.

Easton have spent most of the season anchored to the foot of the table but, when they collected a maximum-point haul from their final day victory, they were optimistic about staying up.

When Rowledge reached 200 however – they were eventually dismissed for 206 – the Surrey village club clinched the precious batting bonus point that kept them up.

Former Hampshire cricketer James Schofield made an unbeaten 87 for Easton, while David Lloyd, working his way back to fitness after breaking his leg playing hockey earlier this year, made 71 for Rowledge.

But Keith Wheatley's 38 not out secured Rowledge's survival – and sent Easton down for the second year running.

Easton's demotion climaxed a frenetic finale at the bottom of County 1, where Fareham & Crofton stayed up by the skin of their teeth after a six-wicket win over Lymington II.

A six-wicket haul by Shaun Baker sent Lymington tumbling to 133 all out – a target Fareham knocked off, with teenager Tom Kent hitting an unbeaten half-century.

But finger nails were being gnawed at Bath Lane until news of Gosport Borough's too tight for comfort two-wicket win over Old Basing came through.

OB made a challenging 227-8, but with Neil Cooper taking 6-27, Borough needed Lee Harrop's 89 to get them home.

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